




Speech By
Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

Record of Proceedings, 19 May 2020

ADJOURNMENT

Mudgeeraba Electorate

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (7.05 pm): Tonight I speak on behalf of my locals who, at the hands of the Labor government, have been dealt cruel blow after blow. I am well acquainted with the local farmers at Natural Bridge in the Numinbah Valley which is why one of them phoned me two weeks ago at 6 am to tell me that bulldozers were descending on their premier picnic spot at Forest Park. Twenty or so locals formed a blockade to stop Labor's bulldozers but were unsuccessful and had to watch on as heritage stone structures, toilet facilities and picnic benches were flattened before their eyes. I table what is left of our park for the benefit of the House.

Weeks before the demolition I wrote to the Minister for Environment and urged her to listen to locals. The minister was well aware that locals had commenced a petition. Unfortunately, their pleas fell on deaf ears. Only after the demolition and only after I had written to the minister was a ridiculous reason given to create a 'vivid greenspace'. Hinterlanders deserve to be treated better from Brisbane bureaucrats who have no idea about my electorate—3,329 residents signed a petition, which I have tabled as a nonconforming petition, an electronic copy of which I have provided to the Table Office.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition regarding saving the Numinbah Forest Park in Numinbah Valley [772](#).

Again, locals contacted me—this time about the ridiculous border closures preventing kids getting to school in New South Wales through the Natural Bridge border. The Palaszczuk government was paying for a public servant to sit beside a barrier 24/7 to tell locals they needed to park their car in Queensland and walk to work or school in New South Wales or take a detour that added hours to their commute each day. I table a photo of what the border crossing looked like. I wrote to the Premier after locals staged yet another protest, requesting the border be opened at Natural Bridge. Finally, we have a new police border checkpoint installed. Finally, I table a photograph of the parking issues in Springbrook to highlight a serious problem there for tourists and locals alike.

Tabled paper: Bundle of photos depicting recreational areas and border crossing between Queensland and New South Wales [771](#).

I again wrote to the environment minister about the parking issue, but I am yet to hear a response. At least Tom Tate, the Mayor of the Gold Coast, recognises the gravity of the situation and volunteers his support for installing more parking at Springbrook National Park. Yet again we hear deafening silence from the Labor Minister for Environment.

The parking problem makes social distancing next to impossible. It is just plain dangerous when the only place to walk from your car to the walking trails is on the road. I am calling on the minister to open up both the Settlement and Springbrook Mountain Manor for tourists and the people of Springbrook before a fatality occurs. Stop treating hinterland residents like they are second-class citizens. They deserve better and we want to be heard.