




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR SOUTH BRISBANE

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ADJOURNMENT

First Nation People

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (7.14 pm): I rise to speak about the growing list of sites across Queensland where First Nation people are standing their ground against the continued dispossession of their land and culture. There is a common thread in these struggles: Labor's habit of dismissing and belittling First Nation people's concerns if they stand in the way of their projects and big corporate donors. In Gympie the Bruce Highway expansion is threatening to destroy the Djaki Kundu site. Local elders have been camping out since January to defend their sacred healing places from destruction. In Ipswich elders have been camping out at Deebing Creek Mission since 2019 to defend land from expansion by property developers. A Jagera elder from Deebing Creek was among those climate protesters outside Parliament House yesterday.

On Minjerribah the Quandamooka Truth Embassy has been set up at Point Lookout to prevent the development of a tourist whale facility. You would think the government would have learned a lesson from their Labor colleagues in Victoria, who have approved the destruction of the djap wurrung trees, or their government colleagues over in WA who are now responding to the destruction of the Juukan Gorge in the Pilbara. I have been told by ministers in this chamber that supporting the elders occupying the Djaki Kundu site is encouraging intercommunity conflict, but in circumstances like this where community members care so deeply about these issues that they camp out to protect their land for days, months and years, how can the government so brazenly claim they have community support? Why would they openly belittle and dismiss people's concerns as irrelevant and illegitimate?

The fact is that what Labor cares about is the profits of their mining and property developer mates and rushing ahead with projects to suit their political agenda, so here is what they do: they choose to dismiss elders' concerns if they get in the way of their projects and their big corporate donors; they choose to extinguish native title and approve the Adani Carmichael mine; they choose to approve the Deebing Creek Priority Development Area; they approve a ministerial infrastructure designation on Minjerribah; and they choose to build a highway ramp through a site of significance to Kabi people. If the government really cared about First Nation justice in this state they would listen to the whole community instead of going with whatever suits them and their big corporate donors.

(Time expired)