



Speech By  
**James Lister**


**MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN DOWNS**

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Record of Proceedings, 23 March 2021

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Mahoney, Mr J and Mrs K**

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (7.20 pm): I rise in the House tonight to speak about the most egregious abuse of government power that I have seen in my time in parliament. It concerns Mr John and Mrs Kathryn Mahoney, who purchased land as a retirement savings in Yamanto. It was zoned at the time future residential and therefore had great prospects for capital growth. In 1999 unbeknownst to them the Ipswich City Council rezoned the land to rural, which very substantially cut its value. Shortly after that the Queensland government resumed the land for the Centenary Highway extension which connects Springfield to Boonah Road at Yamanto.

The Mahoneys took the state government to the Land Court and won their case. The state government then appealed to the appeals court. Their learned representative adduced evidence which I allege to be false, saying that the noise corridors from RAAF Base Amberley meant that the zoning had to be rural. I say that is false. On the basis of that and other evidence the government won their case and were awarded costs against the Mahoneys which was, in my opinion, grossly contrary to the public interest considering they were individual citizens who had already won an appeal against the government.

I wrote to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads in these terms and I received an unhelpful reply. It was just a dusty response. I have written to the CCC concerning the matter of the Ipswich City Council's involvement. Given the alarming disclosures about the corruption and malpractice that occurred in the Ipswich City Council I felt it was neat and proper that the CCC investigate the matter again. I received a reply from them saying they were not going to do so.

The land in question has been now sold out from under the Mahoneys in order to fund the costs that were awarded against them for the Queensland government. I say this is an appalling abuse of the government's power. When I write to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads I expect that he will act in the interests of the public because that is what he is there for. He is there to represent the public and legitimate political interests such as the case of Mr and Mrs Mahoney.

Mr and Mrs Mahoney are devastated at the loss of their land, the loss of their money, and at the shenanigans and irregularities they faced along the way in their case. I am saying this in the House tonight because my predecessor, Lawrence Springborg, and I fought the good fight on this over several years. We feel that we have exhausted every possible avenue of review, but none of those entities have conceded there was anything wrong in the processes we have alleged are wrong. I ask the House to keep this in mind and to in future look after people like the Mahoneys.

*(Time expired)*