




Speech By
Laura Gerber

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Currumbin Eco Parkland

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (2.50 pm): We know that this Palaszczuk Labor government cannot be trusted with taxpayers' hard-earned money and that they have a culture of cover-ups and secrecy. I was disappointed but not surprised when new information came to light regarding Currumbin Eco-Parkland. I recently attended an engagement session for environmental groups by the Deputy Premier's department, and I subsequently attended a briefing with the department directly on the Currumbin Eco-Parkland project. The public should be aware that the Palaszczuk Labor government has absolutely no clue how much this project will cost. They have no plan and no real idea, just an assortment of vague themes. They are making it up as they go along and scrambling to announce something that they thought would win them the seat of Currumbin.

The most obvious issue here is cost. RTI documents show that the parkland had a market valuation of \$70 million—that was last year—and that the government knew about it. The RTI documents also show that after a briefing with the Deputy Premier on 24 May 2021, the department advised, 'We anticipate having a costed master plan ready for mid-July 2021.' So where is it? I have asked the department and they cannot tell me.

The state government is hiding the real cost of this election commitment because they know that they could have purchased this land when it went up for sale in April 2020. They could have purchased it for \$15.25 million, but now it will cost taxpayers \$70 million or more. Do you know how I know that? It is all here in the RTI documents. The Labor government was aware of the sale in 2020 and could have acquired the land, but they did nothing. It was only when this project might have won them a few votes at an election that they finally decided to act.

These RTI documents are damning. There are briefing notes from the department to the Deputy Premier which state—

With insufficient funding allocated to deliver the commitment, there are resource implications and financial implications of this election commitment.

Another one states—

Without participation by the council and an agreed way forward for long-term ownership of the site (which the state government does not yet have), there is a risk that the state could acquire the site, with no solution for long-term holding costs and no appropriate, capable manager.

The idea that the Palaszczuk Labor government would commit Queenslanders to pay more than \$70 million, when they were on notice of the significance of this land to our community and they could have bought it for \$15 million, is an utter disgrace. They should be ashamed and they need to be answerable to the people of Currumbin for their failed election commitment.