




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Gateway Motorway and Bruce Highway, Upgrade

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (8.13 pm): We all know the old adage ‘fail to plan; plan to fail’. During the last sitting of parliament, I asked a question to the main roads minister: when did the minister first know that dozens of families could be losing their brand new houses to make way for roadworks in Griffin? As one would expect, the response he gave to the House tried to deflect the blame for this planning fiasco onto the former federal government.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. All those members leaving the chamber, please do so quietly.

Mr MINNIKIN: Remember that days earlier, when quizzed by the media as to how this absurd situation could come about with people moving into brand new homes only to be informed days or weeks later that their dream home is to be resumed, the main roads minister tried to deflect the blame onto the Moreton Bay Regional Council. Initially, it was the council’s fault but when he was caught out there confusing the name Moreton Bay when quizzed by media, he changed tact and blamed the former federal government.

Last Thursday I visited Charmaine Jackson at her home at Venture Drive, Griffin, along with several other residents, and listened to their personal stories about the resumption of their new homes. It was a deeply moving and harrowing couple of hours. I want to especially acknowledge James, Anil, Noreen, Ric, Doreen, Anish, Brian, Shona, Lini, Titto, Tanzeem, Dilsher and Mandeep who are here in the public gallery tonight. They are decent, hardworking families with a love for their local community.

Minister Bailey said in the media recently, ‘This has been an announced upgrade with joint state and federal government funding since 2019, so it would surprise me if local governments are saying they haven’t heard about this. It’s been in the public domain for three years.’ This assertion was rejected by a local councillor. I have had a detailed conversation about this planning failure with the mayor of Moreton Bay Regional Council, who confirmed the approval of the residential development in 2020. A recent media article quoted a spokesperson for the council saying, ‘Those plans were referred to the state government for assessment. They didn’t say there was potential for property resumptions in the area.’ At the time of the residential DA assessment, council was adamant there were no red flags showing by any referral agency as part of the SARA process. This was reinforced in a recent social media post by Division 4 councillor Jodie Shipway.

Furthermore, in another statement, the developer of this residential estate Fairland General Manager Scott Searle said when they sold the land last year ‘Fairland did not receive any information from Transport and Main Roads regarding future road resumptions’. So who was responsible for this fiasco which has turned numerous families’ lives upside down? It is my contention based on discussions with council, residents of Venture Drive and the Deputy Premier’s own Facebook post on 7 August 2020 when he shot a video with the TMR minister that this was a complete and abject failure in proper planning processes.

The TMR minister has form when it comes to budget blowouts, but this is truly next level incompetence. Planning major transport infrastructure is a function of state government. Sure, other tiers of government may financially contribute joint funding to various levels, but this tired, third-term Labor government cannot even get the basics right. In an ironic twist, residents of Venture Drive, Griffin informed me that they are having trouble getting a response from their local member, who just happens to be the Deputy Premier!

This infrastructure planning fiasco is causing immense mental stress for the people of Venture Drive, Griffin. To add insult to injury, the Bracken Ridge Fire and Rescue Station, which cost \$6 million when opened, and the Sandgate Ambulance Station will also be impacted by the project. You cannot make this up when one considers that the Bracken Ridge fire station was only opened in 2020! This takes incompetence to a new level. Rather than be a keyboard warrior sending out 25,000 tweets, the TMR minister should personally front Charmaine, Tanzeem, Tanzia, Anil, Ali, Doreen, Anish, Natasha, Jesse and the other families and explain why their new homes may be demolished.

When I visited those residents in Venture Drive last Thursday afternoon, many of them stated how they had worked up to three jobs to save for their dream home. They were all proud, dignified, yet mentally exhausted. The look of anguish etched on their faces is the human story behind this speech. Charmaine summed it up poignantly with the following comment—

We rented for six years in Caboolture so that we could save enough for our first home deposit, in our dream area of Griffin. Our home is by no means a mansion, but we added upgrades that we thought we would be able to enjoy for years to come. We are close to my family; my son's kindy is a short drive away ...

Their 'indescribable joy' has turned into a nightmare!

(Time expired)