




Speech By
Bart Mellish

MEMBER FOR ASPLEY

Record of Proceedings, 29 November 2023

MOTION

Liberal National Party, Cuts

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (4.07 pm): I move—

That this House:

1. notes the LNP Brisbane Lord Mayor's decision to cut \$400 million from vital services, projects and jobs;
2. notes the LNP opposition's refusal to support the long-term implementation of progressive coal royalties and the \$7 billion budget black hole this would cause, resulting in more LNP cuts, including cost-of-living support; and
3. notes the Leader of the Opposition is 'committing to no forced redundancies' in the public sector, which is the same commitment Campbell Newman made which saw 14,000 public servants sacked.

This week we have sadly seen that the largest LNP administration in power in the country has had to cut 10 per cent of its budget due to financial management. These cuts will have consequences for people right across Brisbane. The LNP Lord Mayor is cutting \$400 million from the Brisbane City Council budget and those opposite think it is a joke. In his Christmas cuts, the Lord Mayor is cutting the Bracken Ridge SES depot—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, if you are looking to interject, you are doing it with the wrong person. I am in the chair. I will not allow the level of interjections we are hearing. Expect the same situation as question time. Members on their feet will be heard.

Mr MELLISH: In his Christmas cuts, the Lord Mayor is cutting the Bracken Ridge SES depot, the Lindum Road level crossing, 25 per cent of paving and prep crews, and up to 400 casual bus drivers.

On the Bracken Ridge SES depot, this is an almost inconceivable decision given what happened in the February 2022 floods. On a Sunday afternoon in February as the rain kept coming down, we went to the Zillmere BCC depot to see if we could help out, as locals knew it was a location where they could get sandbags. What I saw there was pure chaos. As the only depot covering a large part of north Brisbane, demand was greatly outstripping supply. Cars were lined up a kilometre down the road and there was no traffic control from council at all. Local councillor Jared Cassidy, Anika Wells and I ended up having to direct traffic, prevent road rage and advising people in a nearly kilometre line that they would have to wait an hour for sandbags because there was no LNP councillor in sight and no council officer helping out.

Now the LNP has scrapped what would actually alleviate this massive pressure on the Zillmere depot come the next natural disaster to hit the north side. This is a terrible decision from the LNP. Other poor decisions include scrapping up to 400 casual bus drivers and a reduction of 25 per cent of their road crews in the lead-up to Christmas.

The LNP council has also decided it can afford to cut \$50 million from flood recovery but only \$1 million from its advertising budget. Remarkably in the last week we have seen just how bad the LNP council are going when they have erected at least three billboards across the north side, claiming that a wholly Palaszczuk government funded project—the Gympie Road bypass tunnel—is their project. I table a post from the Lord Mayor himself.

Tabled paper: Extract from the Facebook page of the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Cr Adrian Schrinner, titled 'Stuck in traffic?' [2037](#).

This is utterly shameless but not surprising that when they are going broke they are trying to claim others' projects. This is on top of council quietly scrapping other projects which they have not been up-front about at all. This is all an entree, a sneak peak, of what the LNP would do in power were they in government.