




Speech By
Jimmy Sullivan

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Record of Proceedings, 16 March 2023

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Stafford Bowls Club

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (2.22 pm): I rise to talk about a significant issue for our local community and that is the fate of the former Stafford Bowls Club site. It sits on Brisbane City Council land, but for years the LNP council has let it fall into a state of disrepair—and that is putting it mildly. I am trying to be parliamentary. The core problem with the LNP council's handling of this issue is their absolute lack of transparency. They are treating our community like mugs.

This issue goes back well before my time in this place. I do want to pay respect to my predecessor, Dr Anthony Lynham, for his advocacy on this issue. I remember the old bowls club fondly, going well back even before that, attending many events there over the years, including going back to my days in retail at Stafford City Shopping Centre co-located next to the club where we often held charity fundraisers and other community events.

My understanding is that the previous application for development on the site is still listed before QCAT, yet now there is the latest application that was approved by the Brisbane City Council without a tender process, without community consultation and without community organisations having the ability to submit or, indeed, resubmit their proposals. Having kept locals in the dark, when the LNP councillor and Lord Mayor heard about locals concerns what did they do? The mayor called them fake. They called them Labor operatives. The council blocked them on social media for trying to have a say. I have met with those locals and, short of some advanced hologram technology, I can assure the Lord Mayor and the councillor that these people are real.

The council seem to also suggest that only people who live in the specific suburb of Stafford are the only ones who are allowed to care. Does the councillor think that a new club would not serve people from Kedron or Stafford Heights or Chermside or the Grange? It is ridiculous. Does the Mayor think that people from other suburbs do not come to Stafford City? Does the councillor not know that families from across the northside flock to Gibson Park from all over the northside for footy or for cricket or both?

The LNP council either have no idea about what goes on in our community or they are deliberately trying to silence the voices of locals across the northside. It is so sad now that the local councillor is trying to claim credit for community services in other wards outside of her own ward—services I have supported and visited, but she has not even known about until she is searching for political protection on this issue. In contrast, I have advocated on behalf of my community and sought genuine community input. To that end I am proud that the independent Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming has given my request consideration and has opened public consultation on the applicant's licence. We cannot cover off on the LNP BCC's approach, but this is a genuine community process. To that end, OLGRlicensing @ justice.qld.gov.au.