




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

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ADJOURNMENT

Lytton Electorate, Community Spaces

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (6.26 pm): Today I want to talk about the failures of the Brisbane City Council when it comes to handling the wonderful bayside's community spaces. Community spaces and venues are so important to the fabric of any community. Our local groups, not for profits, families and schools all play a vital role in our beautiful bayside society. They bring people together, promote social cohesion and work towards the betterment of our neighbourhoods, and these activities often take place in community parks, halls and spaces. However, it is unfortunate that under the current administration of the Brisbane City Council it fails to support and collaborate with these groups, leading to widespread disillusionment and frustration when trying to access and use these spaces.

One of the primary failures of the Brisbane City Council is its lack of real support for these groups. Charging a bond and returning that once the space has been inspected sounds okay, but what if an event takes place and four months later there has been no inspection and there have been four other events in that park since that time and the organisation is still waiting for its bond to be returned? That is not okay.

A government member interjected.

Ms PEASE: I take that interjection; that is unacceptable. I ask the Lord Mayor: how hard is it to get one of his staff members to go down there and inspect that property to return the bond, which is a significant amount of money and so important to that organisation?

Mr Hinchliffe: They don't have the staff, so that's it.

Ms PEASE: That is true; they have been contracted out. What about the fees that are being charged? It is simply charging a fee for nothing because it can. It gives with one hand and it takes away with the other. The irony of it is that the Brisbane City Council may support the event with a financial donation but then it charges a bond and then it charges fees for that space, both of which far exceed the donation from the BCC's sponsorship of the events, and, more often than not, these groups do not get their bond back.

Community groups have complained to me about the lack of access and many community groups have reported that they had to jump through hoops and navigate a complex web of regulations and guidelines, making it difficult for them to carry out their work effectively. The council's ridiculous bureaucratic approach to dealing with community groups has resulted in unnecessary delays and red tape and is rampant across the bayside and has resulted in the discontinuation of many events.

I call on the Lord Mayor to step up and stop charging communities ridiculous amounts. Perhaps the Lord Mayor could save a few quid by shelving his regular newsletter that we get delivered in our letterboxes. It is time, Lord Mayor, for council to take a more collaborative and supportive approach to working with community to ensure our community can thrive and flourish.