




Speech By
Kim Richards

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

Record of Proceedings, 24 October 2023

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Redland City Council

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.51 pm): Deputy Speaker, I think you need to stop the press for a second because—I cannot believe I am about to say this—the member for Kawana and I have found something we agree on: the Weinam Creek PDA is an absolute disaster. It is an absolute disaster being led by Redland City Council. I have never seen a project roll out so slowly. Obviously what the LNP candidate for Redlands forgot to tell the member for Kawana is that her mate and mentor, the LNP Mayor for Redlands, Karen Williams, and the Redland City Council are the ones who are delaying it. They have it out at the moment through their Redlands Investment Corporation for an EOI for a private development partner. Clearly, they do not have the information correct. It is the LNP that is delaying that project, which is of critical importance to those island communities.

I would ask the member for Kawana to pick up the phone to his friend the LNP mayor and ask her to accelerate that project. Even better, I am happy to sit down with the member for Kawana this afternoon and prepare a joint letter on our behalf, calling on the Redland City Council to accelerate the project, to get on with the job, and to also commit to maintaining Redland City Council ownership of that car park to make sure private operators do not come in and impose parking fees, because we know that privatisation is the LNP's DNA. We need to make sure the car park remains council owned and operated to ensure we can get the best cost benefit to island community residents who live over there. Redland City Council has been pushing growth over on those islands for years now. I am happy to go on a unity ticket with the member for Kawana and prepare that letter with him—

Mrs Gerber: For more parking?

Ms RICHARDS: Have you had a look at the PDA, member for Currumbin? Deputy Speaker, I would ask the member for Currumbin, before she shoots from the hip, to look at the PDA that is available online at Weinam Creek—

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member for Currumbin and member for Lytton, you will cease your quarrelling across the chamber.

Ms RICHARDS: Honestly! Do your homework first, member for Currumbin. We have delivered in the Weinam Creek area in the PDA—the first piece of catalytic infrastructure down there in our satellite hospital. It is a fantastic asset and we have been able to deliver that completed, open and operational this year, yet council cannot deliver a simple car park. Honestly! It is absolutely crazy.

In his contribution the member for Kawana said to talk about what we have done. I would need hours and hours to talk about the number of projects we have delivered down there. I hope he had the chance to check out our beautiful new ferry terminals—\$46 million worth of ferry terminals for Russell Island, MacLeay Island, Lamb Island and Karragarra Island. They are absolutely fantastic.

There is work at Redland Hospital with the ICU sod turn with ADCO and the new ward to be opened in November with Hutchinson Builders. There is a heap of work going on in the healthcare space. The commitment for the design and planning work and the construction of a new \$150 million mental health facility are all part of the stage 2 development.

The Palaszczuk government has consistently delivered in my term—2,159 days I have had the privilege of representing this community—in the healthcare space and in education. There has been air conditioning installed in every school classroom, new school precincts at the Redlands District Special School and new classrooms in nearly every school. There is the new school underway in Redland Bay because we are planning for growth. We do have a vision for our region. We have had to jump in and sort out the delivery of a housing strategy that the Redland City Council refused to do multiple times. That is an LNP-run council. They would not know priorities if they came up and bit them.

The Palaszczuk government will continue to deliver for my Redlands community. The assets and infrastructure that have been delivered in the last six years are simply incredible. Again, I look forward to hearing from the member for Kawana. I really hope that he wants to be on a joint ticket, because that car park is critical for the 10,000 people who live across those four islands.