




Speech By
Kim Richards

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

Record of Proceedings, 15 November 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Redland Housing Strategy

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (7.21 pm): Following on from the contribution of the member for Stafford, I start by reminding anybody who came into this place in 2018 that this will be the year that the little year 7s we saw then will graduate from year 12. That it is exciting. I think it is really lovely. I am looking forward to attending the Victoria Point State High School for their graduation on Friday. I congratulate everybody who is graduating. What an achievement.

I want to talk about the Redland Housing Strategy. Today I had the opportunity to tune in to hear a little of the Redland City Council meeting, which was quite illuminating on a number of fronts. I will give a bit of history on the Redland City Council's existing housing strategy. It was developed in 2011 and it was underpinned by 2006 data. That data is nearly 20 years old. Everybody in this chamber would know that that is totally redundant data, particularly as we are in the midst of a housing crisis, yet it is being held up as the gold standard for what planning for housing and growth looks like.

Four times the state government asked the Redland City Council to redo that strategy. They refused. They absolutely rejected the premise of doing that good piece of planning work that every council should want to do. They rejected it. Since the state has stepped in to assist them to deliver the housing strategy, they have come out criticising. I struggle with the whole context of their position.

This afternoon I had the chance to listen to Mayor Karen Williams and Steve Austin on drivetime radio. In her discussion with Steve, not once did she mention the Southern Moreton Bay Islands. Barely once are the Southern Moreton Bay Islands mentioned in the original housing strategy. Today in the council meeting, council officer Drew certainly drew the short straw because he had to deliver the news that Redland City have incorporated into their old housing strategy 6½ thousand more blocks across the four Southern Moreton Bay Islands.

Everybody in this room will have heard me talk endlessly about those islands. Anyone who thinks that you can put residential housing supply onto an island that already has constrained infrastructure and limitations is absolutely off their rocker. For the mayor to not have mentioned that is absolutely outrageous. To talk about how the growth being planned for in the housing strategy will be like shoving sardines into the Redlands—I can tell you where she wants to shove her sardines and it is into the Southern Moreton Bay Islands. It is literally on the record—and today council officer Drew told the council—that over the past five years they have allowed 1,000 homes to be developed on those islands. That is absolutely outrageous. Anybody who knows how the ferry services work and the way that services are delivered over there should be absolutely outraged. The mayor should hang her head in shame.