



Speech By
Hon. Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGE

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ADJOURNMENT

Plastic Free Places; Toombul Shopping Centre

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (7.26 pm): It was fantastic to welcome the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs, Meaghan Scanlon, to my electorate recently to announce the expansion of the Plastic Free Places program. It was a special day for the team at Espresso Train Cafe at Nundah who hosted the announcement and were also able to proudly showcase the incredible sustainability efforts that they have long had in place.

Espresso Train Cafe is much loved by our local community and is, in fact, Australia's longest running social enterprise cafe, providing jobs to those who may otherwise face barriers to secure employment while at the same time making earth-conscious decisions. The cafe is completely solar powered and everything that can be re-used or recycled is. All food waste goes to co-op member James, who turns it into fertile compost and worm juice. Coffee grinds are bagged up and given away to anyone who might need it in their gardens. The entire co-op membership enjoys the spoils from the Palaszczuk government's containers for change initiative, sharing the refunds from all plastics, glass and cans as pocket money.

Espresso Train is incredibly excited about what the expansion of the Plastics Free Places means for them and about encouraging more businesses like theirs to go green. I thank Minister Scanlon for visiting and choosing our beloved Espresso Train to make this exciting announcement. I would also like to say a huge well done to cafe manager, Kirsty, and the amazing team there for their efforts.

While I am on my feet, I would also like to provide an update on Toombul Shopping Centre. As many would be aware, Toombul Shopping Centre was inundated during the February 2022 floods, devastating many business owners, as well as local shoppers who access not only the convenient retail options but vital services provided there. I advocated strongly for those business owners alongside the federal member for Lilley, Anika Wells, and thankfully many of the business owners have been able to relocate and restart anew since. Of course the ongoing impact for others is deeply felt.

Since the centre's owner Mirvac has announced its permanent closure there has been significant uncertainty about the future of that site. I was pleased to speak to Mirvac recently and to see they have now submitted their demolition DA to the Brisbane City Council; furthermore, they hope to present plans for the future use of the site to the community by the end of this year. I am also pleased that Mirvac has made clear and strong commitments to limit the impact the demolition and rebuild will have on my surrounding community, an issue I have been strongly advocating for and will keep a close eye on, as a demolition of this nature and size will of course have impacts for the surrounding community.