



Speech By  
**Samuel O'Connor**


**MEMBER FOR BONNEY**

---

Record of Proceedings, 20 April 2023

## ADJOURNMENT

### Bonney Electorate, Arundel Hills Proposed Development

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (6.28 pm): Developers from Victoria have put in a proposal to take out around 3½ thousand koala habitat trees and build 450 luxury houses on the site of the Arundel Hills golf course. Having a small, dense electorate like Bonney of just 29 square kilometres, that is quite a big chunk of my electorate they are proposing to cut down trees in and turn into housing. Over the weekend I worked with my part of the Gold Coast's newest community association, the Arundel Hills Community Association—incorporation pending—to host a public forum on the proposal, and it was a new record in terms of the forums I have had. Over 700 people turned up to Arundel State School to find out more about the process from our local councillors and to learn what they can do to have their voice heard as this progresses.

Firstly, I want to acknowledge and thank the committee led by chair Jason Young and members Kate Bentley, Katharine Campbell, Roger Farrell, Jessica Chaffey, Thomas Adamson, Bob Aley, Michelle Young, Jeannine Farrell, Greg Williams, Paul Bentley, Allison Williams and so many other people who have stood up to have their voices heard and to do what they can to protect what they love about our part of the Gold Coast. We ran a survey on the day and I received 344 responses which I will share with the House tonight. Some 96 per cent of people said that they had an understanding of what is proposed and 98.25 per cent of people said that they were against that proposal. In terms of the biggest issues that people raised, 91 per cent of people said environmental threats to wildlife and habitat destruction, particularly koalas; 77 per cent said increased traffic congestion; 52 per cent said further loss of green space in the northern end of the Gold Coast; 48 per cent were worried about the impact it would have on their property value; and 40 per cent were worried about what it would do to our area's character.

In terms of what people would like to see, around three-quarters would like to see the site become a dedicated green space or conservation area run by the council; 52 per cent would like to see it remain as a golf course; and one in five people would like to see the development footprint scaled back but something similar to what was proposed. That is a really important point, because people in my area are not against development. Just up the road in the other golf course in my electorate in Parkwood, Living Choice is building multiple five-storey buildings with 210 apartments. If that was proposed for this site, then I do not think that people would have had many issues with it. There is even a surf park proposed for that site which, admittedly, is more contentious with the people who live next to the course, but overwhelmingly I think it is supported by the broad number of people that I represent. This area in Arundel is zoned as sport and recreation. The developers did no consultation. It is really arrogant of them. It is disappointing. We need to keep this green space zoned as sport and recreation and we need to protect our local environment.