



Speech By  
**Kim Richards**


**MEMBER FOR REDLANDS**

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Record of Proceedings, 5 March 2024

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Redland City Council, Weinam Creek**

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.52 pm): There really is power in collaborating and working together to deliver for Queenslanders. I was pretty surprised, given that we are in caretaker mode, that Thursday a week ago Redland City Council announced that it had a preferred development partner for the Weinam Creek car park. The member for Kawana and I, I believe, are still on a unity ticket that it is a bit of a debacle down there and it is something that needs to be prioritised. I was surprised to see the media release, which says—

Redland City council has announced Consolidated Properties Group as the preferred development partner to deliver the multi-storey car park and retail precinct within the Weinam Creek Priority Development Area (PDA).

The Weinam Creek PDA master plan was approved in 2022 and is set to create a dynamic new destination, as well as an effective transport hub and gateway to the Southern Moreton Bay Islands.

In August, Redland Investment Corporation went out with an RFP process. They called for expressions of interest. It has taken until now for this media release to come out. We are some six months down the track and not once was I provided with any sort of briefing on what was happening in terms of what is a real priority: the car parking in that area, which is at a critical point. The LNP mayor is calling on me to do something when she has not, in all of that time, directly communicated with me to talk about how we could possibly collaborate. There is a non-binding MOU, as it turns out from the correspondence.

On seeing this media release I wrote to the mayor with questions, because the community rightly deserves to know what is the deal with the developer: what does that look like? I asked pretty common questions, such as how many car spaces are going to be provided. There are 10,000 people living on the islands. At the end of last year's council meeting, the council officers said that there had been a thousand new homes across those four islands. They have been ploughing in development across the islands without any plan to deal with parking.

In my letter to the mayor I asked how many car spaces are going to be provided and what is the time line for that. The media statement was a bit loose. It says two to three years. The next phase for the developer is the detailed design. There has to be an existing design. There should be a rough idea of how many car spaces there are. I asked if council was going to maintain ownership of that car park. That is a way we can control the cost of living for those communities. When we talk about genuinely helping with cost of living, council being able to control those prices by maintaining ownership is a very important question. The other question was about alternative arrangements for car parking during the construction process. None of those questions are answered at all. It is all very loose.

I am looking forward to some meetings I have later this week with both Economic Development Queensland and Redland Investment Corporation, which has, subsequent to my letter to the mayor, reached out and said, 'Can we give you a briefing?' It would have been really nice if they had engaged with me throughout that RFP process. They have done six to seven months of work without actually saying, 'This is what we're doing.' It is an important piece of infrastructure for our island communities.

I am looking forward to getting more information that builds on the letter from the mayor. The letter from the mayor is extraordinarily interesting. I am not sure what time of night this was written, but it is certainly very interesting. I am also looking forward to being able to collaborate with the mayor going forward. It has been extraordinarily challenging. Post that drink-driving offence, I think the engagement has been next to nothing.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 1 March 2024, from the Mayor of Redland City Council, Ms Karen Williams, to the member for Redlands, Ms Kim Richards MP, regarding the Weinam Creek redevelopment project [292](#).

Talking about the power of collaboration, I look forward to Jos Mitchell potentially being the next mayor of Redland City Council. I know that she is absolutely invested in the community. She will be transparent with information. She will consult and communicate with the good people of Redlands, particularly the island community, which is a really challenging space where water and ferries are the way that you get to and from your home. I am looking forward to that and to getting more information for my community on this very important project.