




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGE

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ADJOURNMENT

Toombul Shopping Centre; Housing

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Innovation) (7.16 pm): An important issue to my community—and one that I have spoken about a number of times in this House—is the future of the Toombul Shopping Centre site in Nundah. Since its loss in the February 2022 floods, I have heard from many in my electorate about how the loss has impacted them—whether they were retailers, workers in those shops or those who frequented the shops or services there—and how important it is that their voices are heard in what Mirvac, the owner of the site, chooses do in the future. Before its loss, Toombul provided ease of access not just to retail options but also to important health services, particularly for many aged in my community and across the north side. It offered the power of choice of where locals shop for their groceries which we know is incredibly important in addressing the ever-growing duopoly of the supermarket giants and driving down prices at the check-out, something our Miles Labor government is acting on through our supermarket price inquiry.

We also know that our communities are calling for strong action on housing. We as a government are listening. We know that any site which can be utilised for more affordable housing is a site of interest as we look to tackle national housing pressures and work with private landholders to incentivise and fast-track housing development. It is a key pillar of our new Homes for Queenslanders housing plan. The Toombul site and its proximity to crucial services and public transport options provides Mirvac with an excellent opportunity to deliver on inaccessible services, on retail options, on green and public space and potentially, as some have called for, on affordable housing. This will of course be an economic decision for Mirvac—it is their site—but I can assure my community that I will continue to advocate for their voices to be heard and the needs of our local community and the north side community more broadly to be considered as they decide what the future of the site will look like. I acknowledge the CEO of Mirvac, to whom I regularly speak and who makes himself available, and all of his team as we talk about how we best utilise that site for a growing north side and a growing city.

The issues I have mentioned—cost of living and affordability of housing—are issues being deeply felt across all of Brisbane. We know that. They are issues of significant concern to my community. We know that these are the issues Queenslanders want us to deliver on. Our Homes for Queenslanders plan will see us engaging with landholders to unlock more land supply and making record investments to deliver more social and affordable housing faster. I acknowledge the significant investment that our government has made in my electorate of Nudgee, particularly in our suburbs at Nundah, in Zillmere and across Boondall, where we have been able to build more social and affordable housing so that families, singles and, in many cases, seniors have a safe place to live. Only a Labor government will do that.