




Speech By
Mark Robinson

MEMBER FOR OODGEROO

Record of Proceedings, 16 April 2024

ADJOURNMENT

Toondah Harbour Development

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (7.28 pm): The Toondah Harbour development in Cleveland appears to be literally dead in the water. The federal Albanese Labor government recently dealt a deathblow to the \$1.4 billion Toondah Harbour development when federal environment minister Plibersek declared that environmental approval would be denied. Toondah Harbour is a critical harbour. Each year a million passengers and 200,000 vehicles rely on Toondah Harbour for ferry transportation across Moreton Bay and to and from Straddie. It serves as the lifeblood to North Stradbroke Island's economy.

Over the years some locals have expressed concerns about the potential environmental and infrastructure impacts of Toondah and, under the Palaszczuk government since 2015, also about the increased scale of the project, particularly the amount of residential development into Ramsar wetland area. Many other Redlanders have been keen supporters of the project for the upgraded ferry facilities, housing opportunities, other amenities, better car parking, all-weather protection, 1,100 construction jobs, hundreds of ongoing small business jobs and other economic benefits that the project would have delivered. All of the benefits will be lost if this is an end, as it looks to be.

While we wait for more detail, it is my hope that a compromise that prioritises the critical transport elements can be reached, and I call on the federal government and state government to work constructively with Redland City Council and Walker's developers to reach a workable agreement. A smaller scale transport-centred project with a more land-based footprint is feasible in my opinion—one that does not impact significantly on Ramsar bird wildlife and marine environment like the original LNP development that I supported but that Jackie Trad changed. If this opportunity is squandered, then Labor needs to explain the role of Labor division and infighting in the project grinding to a halt. We have seen the dramatically different views of state Labor MPs amongst themselves and with their federal counterparts. I table a social media post from Tanya Plibersek, the environment minister, titled 'An update on Toondah Harbour' where she announces the scuttling of Toondah Harbour and her intentions.

Tabled paper: Extracts of social media posts from the member for Miller, Hon. Mark Bailey, and the member for Capalaba, Mr Don Brown MP [583](#).

This post was shared by two Labor state members—the Labor member for Miller, Mark Bailey, who said—

This is the right decision for future generations, and for the protection of Moreton Bay by [@tanya_plibersek](#)

The Labor member for Capalaba, Don Brown, said—

Very disappointing result. \$3 bn is lost investment, hundreds jobs and thousands of homes in the middle of a housing crisis. Let's be clear, Toondah Harbour is not protected now, it is dredged regularly and has sediment from being a working port.

This division has played havoc on the—

(Time expired)