




Speech By
Samuel O'Connor

MEMBER FOR BONNEY

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ADJOURNMENT

Arundel Hills Redevelopment

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (6.06 pm): Tonight, I urge the planning minister to not go ahead with the proposed call-in of the Arundel Hills redevelopment. My community fought for over a year to see the Gold Coast council comprehensively and unanimously reject the proposal in January. Almost 1,200 locals, which is pretty much every person who lives next to this green space, and many from further afield wrote in to object to this proposal. Only around 100 were in favour, almost all of which were in template or bulk submission format. Every single councillor voted against it because it was a bad proposal which set a bad precedent for a city which does not have enough sport and recreation land.

People have been devastated to find out a far greater threat is now before us through the extraordinary powers of a ministerial call-in. This site is 67 hectares of freehold sport and recreation zoned land. Over the decades since Arundel was built as a central Gold Coast suburb, it has become a vital environmental corridor amongst the dense housing of my area. The electorate I represent is geographically small—just 29 square kilometres. We are already punching well above our weight in terms of housing density. If the minister wants to see more put in, here are some examples of what is happening.

Already we have a major development planned for Harbour Shores across from Harbour Town, with over 2,000 dwellings that will house around 5,000 people. That is just the first stage. Southport Sharks are looking at putting in residential towers on their car park as well as another multi-storey car park as part of their master plan. There is a state owned block of land in the Health and Knowledge Precinct, which is zoned residential. Twelve months ago, I called for that to be fast-tracked for health worker housing but we are still waiting to see a proposal be locked in. Even just up the road at the other golf course in my area at Parkwood, we have towers being built with 200 units and even a surf park. Locals were broadly supportive of that because it kept the overwhelming majority of the site for sport and recreation.

Labor have also failed to live up to their direct housing obligation to build social housing. In 2018, there were 4,974 social housing properties on the Gold Coast. The most recent data—last year—showed there were just 5,138. That is an increase of just 191 properties in half a decade in our state's second largest city, which is experiencing some of the fastest population growth in the nation. My message is: Minister, leave Arundel alone. This is the move of a desperate, decade-old government trying to do anything they can to look like they are fixing a housing crisis they created. I urge everyone in my community to put in a submission so the state Labor government know that we do not want this bad development to be called in.