



Speech By
Hermann Vorster

MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

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ADJOURNMENT

Burleigh, Development

 **Mr VORSTER** (Burleigh—LNP) (9.11 pm): Burleigh needs a break—despite boasting one of the most epic surf breaks on the planet. Where Justins Park was once filled with a delightful cacophony of birdsong, its atmosphere has been replaced by incessant hammering, pounding, sirens and klaxons as the suburb has undergone a dramatic transformation over quite some years. Construction is now the norm in Burleigh. I regret to inform the House that it has robbed Burleigh of its quiet, idyllic village atmosphere, something at the very heart of the identity and spirit of this gorgeous part of the Gold Coast, a cultural treasure of Queensland itself.

While the third stage of the Gold Coast Light Rail project is progressing slowly towards its conclusion—a project utterly mismanaged by the former Labor government—locals are looking forward to a little bit of a reprieve. Regrettably, they were quite surprised to learn of ambitious plans of the Gold Coast City council to rip up the green space of Burleigh over many years to remake the suburb, dare I say it, in the image of Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach. That is not to say that Surfers and Broadbeach are not incredible parts of the Gold Coast—they are just not Burleigh. Locals have been quite aghast at these plans and lamented the fact that council may just copy and paste the aesthetic of these other parts of the Gold Coast and impose it on Burleigh.

Council is presently running a community consultation on their plans to rip up and rebuild the Burleigh foreshore. That opportunity was only secured because of the advocacy of Josh Martin, a local councillor. I want to say thank you to that councillor for securing that opportunity for us. Council has not afforded our community enough time to grapple with these plans and to make them the best possible plans. Our community is crying out for a pause to this work, genuine community consultation and, in the meantime, an opportunity for Burleigh locals to enjoy Burleigh without the noise pollution and without the visual pollution. They want their backyard back. Burleigh was beautiful before these council plans. I do not believe the plans improve upon perfection. Let's let locals settle into the rhythm of Burleigh and revisit this after the 2032 Olympic Games.