




Speech By
Jonty Bush

MEMBER FOR COOPER

Record of Proceedings, 18 February 2025

ADJOURNMENT

Cooper Electorate

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (9.13 pm): I have spoken before in this place about a pending development application in Ashgrove for a McDonald's restaurant. We have all partaken of the occasional Big Mac and I accept that there are communities that love their golden arches and the employment and training opportunities it brings, but the Ashgrove community is overwhelmingly against this. We are standing by small business.

A government member interjected.

Ms BUSH: Small business is not a joking matter. It is important to stand by those small businesses, who are very anxious about the impact that this DA will have on their small and family businesses. I do not think it is funny.

Two thousand people in Ashgrove have signed our petition demanding that the Brisbane City Council reject the application. That is a third of the suburb who want their voices to be counted. I thank them for their advocacy in sending such a strong and united message to Brisbane City Council that we want to get behind our small businesses and not foreign owned multinationals. Regrettably, council has chosen to ignore the views and wishes of our local community and has granted conditional approval for the application. I understand that McDonald's is fighting that and has resubmitted a fresh application. Our office will continue to stand up for the small businesses and locals who are concerned about the environmental and health impacts of McDonald's in that area.

I want to touch briefly on the incredibly important issue of flooding in the Paddington, Rosalie and Milton areas. For context, this is ground zero for the Olympics. Milton is home to Suncorp Stadium, host of the opening and closing ceremonies for the 2032 games. It floods often and many residents have lost cars and possessions and had their homes flooded. The cost of insurance has trebled since 2022. Businesses bear the brunt of that, including through clean-up costs and slumps in sales. I have written to the relevant ministers. I acknowledge that the Minister for Small Business has written back and offered a meeting—I will take him up on that—but the Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning has palmed me off onto the Minister for Local Government. I have not had my letter acknowledged by the Minister for Sport. Our constituents would like to respectfully request a response from these ministers on something that is an extremely important issue for our area. Ensuring a climate-resilient community is one of the greatest priorities in Paddington, Milton and Rosalie. Our office will continue fighting for that.

The 2032 Olympics are just around the corner. We do not want to be subjected to flooding when that time hits. It is important that the ministers start to prioritise infrastructure in that area and meet with us and engage in looking at what we can do to make that the most successful games we can possibly have, not only for putting us on the global stage but also for our residents, small businesses and community and sporting groups. It is an area that has been neglected by council. We are asking the state government to use their influence with the LNP city administration to get vital infrastructure put into this area before that opportunity is lost.