



Speech By  
**Wendy Bourne**


**MEMBER FOR IPSWICH WEST**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 May 2025

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Ipswich West, Development**

 **Ms BOURNE** (Ipswich West—ALP) (9.06 pm): I rise this evening to speak about a serious issue facing the people of Ipswich West—the proposed sale of land around the Ipswich Railway Museum to developers. The community only knows about this because brave whistleblowers came forward and told us about the LNP's secret plans to sell off this historical site. According to current Queensland Rail workers, the plans show that two-thirds of the precinct could be lost. If this goes ahead, we risk erasing a critical part of our identity, like a thief in the night stealing from our shared story. I ask the Crisafulli government: why the secrecy? Our community deserves to be consulted; the government needs to come clean and tell us about its plans.

The President of the Australian Railway Historical Society, Steve Lamprecht, who I have met with, accused Queensland Rail of systematically choking funds from the workshops. He said—

... that QR has deliberately neglected the Workshops to facilitate this potential sale.

He further said—

QR are nothing more than heritage vandals and any sell off would be like selling the family silver.

Do they need reminding that Ipswich has the oldest continuing operating railway workshop in the Southern Hemisphere? It would seem so. If the LNP sell this land, they will be tearing out the very heart and soul of Ipswich. If those opposite cared about Ipswich, they would tell the people of this community what they have planned. Given the slow progress on major road projects, it would seem that we have been forgotten once again. Make no mistake: the people of Ipswich do not want to lose this vital heritage. We demand a better way forward, grounded in transparent, meaningful community consultation. I am calling on the state government to properly consult our community and stakeholders and honour the legacy of the workers who built this region and this state. We must stop any decision to sell or redevelop this land until genuine consultation occurs. Our community deserves to be heard, and our unique history deserves to be protected.