




Speech By
Barbara O'Shea

MEMBER FOR SOUTH BRISBANE

Record of Proceedings, 26 March 2026

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

South Brisbane, Development Proposals

 **Dr O'SHEA** (South Brisbane—ALP) (2.27 pm): I rise to speak about a petition tabled in parliament earlier this month calling on the Deputy Premier to undertake formal community consultation on the future use of seven hectares of state owned land in my electorate of South Brisbane. Almost 2,000 Queenslanders signed the petition, united in their concern about the future of the last large parcel of publicly owned land in the area. This riverside land, the size of 10 football fields, is on Montague Road in South Brisbane and is currently being used as a recycling and manufacturing facility by Visy Glass, with their lease due to end in March next year.

My community is concerned about this government's plan for this site, as five months ago the Deputy Premier invited private developers to submit proposals for development of the Visy site with no mention of affordable housing and without any community consultation. There was also no community consultation when, 10 days before this announcement, the Deputy Premier quietly changed the planning rules for this area, removing requirements for affordable housing and long-term rentals at the Visy site. These could have been homes for key workers like nurses or teachers or for young renters and families who are being locked out of the private rental market with skyrocketing rents.

There was also no community consultation when last month the government removed normal planning, heritage and environmental laws for the Cross River Rail site at Woolloongabba where the Gabba arena is to be built. These changes mean no development application process, no public notification period and no transparency for this development. Again and again there is a lack of community consultation and transparency by this government, with major development and infrastructure projects in South Brisbane now occurring with no consultation, no transparency and no provision for affordable housing.

It is imperative that my community has a say in the redevelopment of the Visy site as decisions made by this government now will impact our community for generations. The little green space our community has is full of rough sleepers who are living in tents and are desperate for affordable housing. Our public housing system is gridlocked with a shortage of both emergency and long-term housing and our local schools are at or near capacity. Community consultation is essential to ensure that this state owned land meets the needs of our community. Therefore, the petitioners call on the Deputy Premier to undertake a formal community consultation process on the future use of the Visy site.