



Speech By
Dr Christian Rowan

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

Record of Proceedings, 13 November 2018

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (OXLEY AND YERONGA PDAS) AMENDMENT
REGULATION**

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (6.10 pm): I rise to support the disallowance motion as moved by the Liberal National Party shadow minister for state development, manufacturing, infrastructure and planning. I have heard the Labor members before me, the member for Bancroft and the member for Mount Ommaney. This is really about proper consultation with local communities and sustainable development. One of the major issues that is raised with me in the electorate of Moggill and more broadly across the western suburbs of Brisbane is overdevelopment and inappropriate development. The fact is that Labor has a failed South East Queensland Regional Plan process and a failed urban planning process. In particular, there is inadequate or inappropriate infrastructure to match what Labor expects in relation to infill and population growth. The member for Everton clearly articulated the principles that people in the south-east corner of Queensland are looking for. They are looking for sustainable development, development which is consistent with the character of the area and forward planning in relation to the resultant outcomes, particularly in relation to traffic congestion.

This is the last sitting week of this year. In fact, this should have been the second-last sitting week of 2018, but because those opposite have chosen to have an early holiday or an extended break, an early mark, here we are in the final sitting week, nearly 12 months to the day since the Palaszczuk Labor government was elected, having to discuss another example of Labor's failure, this time with respect to development and urban development processes. The lazy and arrogant 'do as we say' and 'we know what is best for you' approach of this Labor government continues unabated. Sadly, it is the good people of Oxley this time who are the latest to suffer from this terrible approach to government by Labor. Only the Palaszczuk Labor government could hold a straight face as they run roughshod over the interests and wishes of local Queenslanders by forcibly imposing their preferred outcome and then proudly proclaim that in fact it is the result that the community has asked for. We have seen it time and time again. In fact, sadly we have seen it too many times before.

We have seen it recently with the Carseldine Urban Village development, which was foisted onto the residents of Carseldine and surrounding suburbs with absolutely no meaningful consultation whatsoever. In fact, consultation—if you could call it that—was actually a mere afterthought. There was a shoddy attempt at face-saving by the Deputy Premier, who was all too happy to call in the television crews and announce the development as a fait accompli, but after that the Deputy Premier went to ground, never once agreeing to meet with residents and/or hold any meaningful consultation whatsoever. Instead, the Deputy Premier farmed out the belated and, quite frankly, embarrassing consultation process to others at the time. All the while Labor, aided and abetted by the new member for Aspley in that part of Brisbane, continued the shameful façade of suggesting that this development, in an area that is already overcrowded and suffering from this government's inaction on local road and transport infrastructure, was not only in the community's best interests but in fact what the community was asking for. In other words, 'Do as we say because we know what is best for you.'

History is now repeating itself as the Palaszczuk Labor government continues to use the same playbook and read from the same script when it comes to the Oxley Priority Development Area. As my colleague the LNP shadow minister for state development has rightly argued, the Palaszczuk Labor government's consultation process on this priority development area, such as it was, was an absolute sham. Just as we saw with Carseldine, the outcome was a foregone conclusion. I will give credit where it is due, and in this case it is to a number of community members who raised concerns. I believe that Oxley resident Mr Brian Fuller nailed the government's modus operandi when he told Quest Newspaper's *South-West News* that the Labor government ignored residents despite entering into a two-year consultation process and engaging a community panel. Brian Fuller said—

The panel said they wanted the area to remain undeveloped and not to go for housing.

The Government went quiet for a year and when they had Jess Pugh elected as an ALP member they come back with a plan that ignores the opinion of the people of Oxley.

The only green space will be the flood-prone and slippage areas.

This is really the same playbook and the same script from the Palaszczuk Labor government. Labor has always had a predetermined development outcome. The Labor government simply engages in sham consultation. The community tells the government that they do not want their space developed. The state Labor government then returns with an elected ALP local member to say, 'Congratulations! You are getting the exact opposite to what you asked for and be thankful for the fact that you were consulted.'

Particularly for the residents of Oxley, and even Carseldine, it is little wonder when the Premier says, 'It is my way or the highway' that residents are forced to accept Labor's preferred outcome, because the alternative, the highway—in this case the Centenary Highway—continues to be neglected and congested due to inertia and failure by the Palaszczuk Labor government. When will we see this government learn that consultation is a two-way process?

I am genuinely concerned, as I am sure all of us on this side of the House are, that the only genuine consultation that has taken place by the Labor government is in front of a mirror or an echo chamber. How else can you describe this shoddy exercise for planning and investing in Queensland's future? Countless reports from respected institutions continue to expose this Labor government's shameful economic ignorance and woeful lack of any infrastructure plan for Queensland.

We know that unemployment here in Queensland is the worst of any mainland state in Australia. Debt is to increase to \$83 billion by 2021-22 and there are five new taxes, but the only plan that any of those opposite have is to wait until they are exposed yet again for failing to get Queensland moving and, once exposed, blame it on local or federal government just as we heard in question time today. It is never the Premier's fault; it is never the state Labor government's fault. It is always someone else's fault when it comes to that.

Is it too much to ask the Labor government to provide a real infrastructure plan—not special projects announced sporadically—for Queensland's future? That would be a terrific Christmas present for residents in my electorate of Moggill. A real plan would give certainty to business. A real plan would work to actually decrease our unemployment rate. A real plan would bust traffic congestion and build the roads and public transport infrastructure we so desperately need across the western suburbs of Brisbane. We need a properly funded plan to deliver the primary and secondary school infrastructure that families of the Moggill electorate and other electorates in the western suburbs of Brisbane so desperately need, as well as resolve ambulance ramping, longer emergency department wait times and growing surgical waitlists.

Christmas will soon be upon us, and in the spirit of giving let me offer those opposite a gift—a head start in their planning for the western suburbs. For my electorate of Moggill, in this place and in the media I have consistently called for a comprehensive, integrated road and public transport plan for the western suburbs of Brisbane. Just like me, local residents in my electorate and across the western suburbs of Brisbane are sick and tired of the Premier and Labor minister after minister duckshoving responsibility and always passing the buck onto anyone else but themselves.

In relation to this development, what we are talking about is appropriate and adequate consultation with local residents. We are talking about sustainable development, and when this does not occur it is always someone else's fault. It is always someone else that Labor continually blames. As we have seen a number of times, not only today but in the previous sitting weeks, Labor always tries to blame someone else: the federal government, Brisbane City Council, the opposition leader, business, commuters, patients, students—anyone they can think of in relation to their inaction, failure or lack of proper and adequate consultation. All the while they will sign another letter saying, 'It is not my

responsibility.' They happily allow local residents across the western suburbs of Brisbane to sit in traffic congestion because of their failed regional planning processes and not investing in the public transport services that are needed not only in my electorate of Moggill but across the western suburbs of Brisbane.

The Oxley Priority Development Area is yet another shameful result of Labor's self-inflicted planning crisis stemming from its own arrogance. With two years to go before the next election, I am afraid it will not be the last debacle for Labor.

I fully support the disallowance motion moved by the shadow minister. I ask all members of this House who support the principles of accountable government, engaging with and consulting local communities, and having sustainable development, sound planning processes and proper consultation to do the same. There is no doubt that if the former Liberal National Party member for Mount Ommaney, Tarnya Smith, was still the local community representative then proper consultation would have taken place. I believe that the current member for Mount Ommaney is misguided in her approach in that there has not been adequate consultation. Certainly that has been reflected to LNP members. I congratulate the LNP shadow minister for bringing this disallowance motion before the House today. I certainly support it, as do all members on this side of the House.