



Speech by

Jann Stuckey

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Hansard Wednesday, 26 November 2008

CURRUMBIN ELECTORATE, POWERLINES

Mrs STUCKEY (Currumbin—LNP) (10.39 pm): On 4 June this year I brought to the attention of this parliament the concerns of thousands of residents about 110kV overhead powerlines going through their suburbs. STOP—Stop the Overhead Powerlines—members and a raft of local citizens and community groups have campaigned solidly since May, which clearly indicates the level of public animosity towards the proposal to put these powerlines through suburbs from Mudgeeraba to Tugun.

Two petitions to the Bligh government in a matter of months with 6,300 signatures requested the Premier and her ministers to listen to the significant concerns of local residents in the established suburbs such as Mudgeeraba, Reedy Creek, Tallebudgera, Elanora, Palm Beach, Currumbin and Tugun and to keep them fully informed. Residents have expressed concerns that overhead powerlines will decrease land values, pose a health risk to residents and wildlife, degrade visual and community amenities and affect residents, local business, schools and children's quality of life.

Energex has received a strong and sustained public response to this project. Now residents of the southern Gold Coast want assurances that the underground option will be assessed as rigorously as the overhead option in the forthcoming final assessment report. Throughout this campaign by STOP, I have spoken with countless individuals and have been happy to support their cause. The members for Mudgeeraba and Burleigh have publicly stated that they are in regular, even weekly, contact with the minister. That being the case, I called on them to provide evidence of this contact so residents could see for themselves the extent of their lobbying.

I note the member for Burleigh, in reply to my call to show proof of this ministerial contact, apparently told the *Gold Coast Sun* newspaper that she was not answerable to me. And neither is she, but she is certainly answerable to her constituents, and it is they who are hopping mad. The member for Mudgeeraba has not ever responded at all.

STOP group members want answers to a number of issues including: why should the southern Gold Coast be disadvantaged by an overhead 110kv when a 33kv cable would secure the electricity supply for the next 15 years; is the additional capacity to build New South Wales substations; if it is then they should pay the difference between a 33kv and 110kv line and not Queensland taxpayers.

The minister in parliament this week did not give protesters much confidence when he chose to denigrate the LNP's previous policy that would progressively underground powerlines through established communities. In fact, he may have even misled parliament when he said, referring to the opposition leader, 'His position is that we must be undergrounding all the powerlines throughout Queensland.' He further exposed just how desperate this tired and arrogant government has become.

The submission to Energex's infrastructure cost estimate report closed on 21 November. People like the Friends of Currumbin and Gecko have both lodged submissions. The people of the southern Gold Coast deserve a government that will listen to them and not try to score cheap political points here in this parliament at their expense.