




Speech by

Jann Stuckey

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Hansard Wednesday, 11 May 2011

TALLEBUDGERA VALLEY AND REEDY CREEK, PROPOSED QUARRY

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (11.47 pm): This week I tabled petitions from residents in my electorate of Currumbin and neighbouring electorates of Mudgeeraba and Burleigh and beyond to oppose a quarry proposed for a 219-hectare area of natural bushland surrounding Tallebudgera Valley and Reedy Creek. Over 9,000 local residents signed these petitions, which is an enormous show of support for such a localised issue. Compared to other petitions tabled in this House during the past four years, it rates in the top 10, following controversial state-wide issues.

What this level of protest highlights is the staunch opposition felt by people to having their personal lifestyles and private environment destroyed by a quarry operating 12 hours a day, six days a week for 40 years. The announcement of this proposed quarry was thrust upon unsuspecting residents only last November, and the passion to fight this cause has over the past six months turned many of their lives upside down. Stop the Gold Coast Quarry Action Group was formed and has run a tooth-and-nail campaign engaging the media, utilising social-networking sites, holding public rallies and harnessing the power of good old-fashioned word of mouth amongst residents.

Dirt, dust, noise, damage to homes—these are the very real fears of distraught residents who choose to live in this beautiful and peaceful part of the world. They want this natural bushland protected and preserved for future generations to enjoy. There are also grave concerns for the negative effects on local wildlife corridors and loss of habitat for our beloved koalas and native birds, including the vulnerable glossy black cockatoo.

The proposal has been granted significant project status by the state government, essentially to fast-track the decision given the impending winding down of Boral's nearby West Burleigh Quarry, which has only eight to 11 years of production left. As a significant project it is subject to an environmental impact statement, the process of which is open to public comment at specified times. Draft terms of reference for this EIS closed last month, on 1 April.

In what can best be described as yet another sign of the arrogance that pervades this toxic Bligh Labor government, two senior government ministers, the Treasurer and the environment minister, both replied in writing to concerned residents who met with them at February's Burleigh community cabinet advising them to submit to the draft TOR. I say 'arrogance' because their replies were written days after submissions had closed. This incorrect advice was a slap in the face to residents who felt their concerns were merely given lip-service by Labor ministers who did not care enough to even check the facts. Throughout this campaign the member for Mudgeeraba and I have given our unwavering support to affected residents in our electorates, as has the federal member for McPherson. Now it is up to the member for Burleigh to stand up and fight for her residents and for this government to consider the impact this quarry would have on the quality of lifestyle of innocent residents should it allow it to go ahead.