



Speech by

Jann Stuckey

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Hansard Wednesday, 4 June 2008

PACIFIC MOTORWAY, CONSTRUCTION OF OVERHEAD POWERLINES

Mrs STUCKEY (Currumbin—Lib) (11.47 am): I table the correspondence I received in relation to my question without notice today.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 28 May 2008, from Candi Di Bartolo to Mrs Stuckey, member for Currumbin, relating to the International Adoption Program.

On Tuesday in this House, I tabled a petition from almost 4,000 residents who are angry that overhead powerlines carrying 110 kilowatt voltage will be constructed along the alignment of the Pacific Motorway from Mudgeeraba to Tugun. The petition asks the government to intervene urgently in the project and place the powerlines underground because of health concerns, house devaluations and the loss of vegetation. It sent a strong message to the government and resulted in a delegation of protesters from STOP meeting with departmental and Energex staff minutes after the petition was tabled. On behalf of these residents, I table 129 letters for the Minister for Mines and Energy and a further 418 letters for the Premier, calling for powerlines connecting to Tugun along this proposed route to be placed underground.

Tabled paper: Non-conforming petition to the Minister for Mines and Energy relating to an Energex proposal for overhead powerlines from Mudgeeraba to Tugun.

Tabled paper: Four bundles of non-conforming petitions to the Premier relating to overhead powerline extension from Mudgeeraba to Tugun on the M1 alignment.

At yesterday's meeting, I asked for a community task force to be set up between affected parties, the government and Energex representatives, and I am pleased to hear a community reference group is to be established. In addition, I requested estimated costings of putting the powerlines underground through this area to be provided.

These past two weeks, my staff have fielded calls and visits from countless infuriated residents from my own electorate and also from Burleigh and Mudgeeraba. People are outraged at this proposal, at the silence from one of their local state government members and at the perceived lack of consultation from the state government via Energex. Further, they are irate that the project may be deemed a prescribed one and that normal environmental and planning procedures are not being undertaken. Complaints about the lack of community consultation in this project are frequent, with the majority saying the first they heard about it was through the media.

Social costs and community impacts have been ignored by this cold and heartless government, which has little regard for the effect this will have on established communities and the significant reductions in property valuations. The Bligh government needs to find the money to bury these lines underground. Failure to budget for this when it can find money for a \$1 billion desalination plant almost overnight is grossly irresponsible. I do commend the government departments for rail, transport and energy for working together to determine the best way to supply much-needed services, but I am concerned about the speed in which this project is progressing and the route it is taking.