

BATES BULLETIN OUR MUDGEERABA



EDITION 1 / JULY 2009

"I will not go quietly into that good night on this and any other issue; I have been elected to represent the residents of mudgeeraba and represent them I will."

MAIDEN SPEECH
HANSARD 22/04/09

Read all of Ros's speech in the special lift out inside this edition.



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DEAR RESIDENTS

I am very honoured and humbled to have been elected as your representative at the March State election, and I was overwhelmed by the support I received. It is no easy feat to unseat an incumbent, however with many issues crying out for attention, I believe residents wanted a strong local voice. My pledge to you is I am here to represent you, and I will continue to be a loud vocal champion for the many issues we are currently facing.

My staff and I have moved into the electorate office and have settled in quite nicely. I would like to thank those of you who popped in to say hello and welcome us - it was very much appreciated.

One of the first things we did when we moved in was to remove the sticker on the door advising the office was closed between 1.00pm to 2.00pm for lunch. I would like to assure residents my office is open from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday (except for public holidays).

On Wednesday 22 April 2009 I made my Maiden Speech, of which a copy is included in this newsletter. My speech allowed me to outline my priorities and vision for our area, and to give some further background information on myself - who I am and what I stand for.

Since then, I have been a strong local voice in Parliament and spoken on numerous pieces of legislation being pushed through by the Bligh Government including health, law and order, and infrastructure. In addition, I have lodged Questions on Notice to various Ministers on issues pertaining to our area. Petitions have also been presented to Parliament regarding roads, and law and order. Regular updates on my speeches, Questions on Notice, and press releases can be downloaded from my website.

Queenslanders now know why we went to an early election, with the recent delivery of the Queensland Budget. The Queensland Labor Government's eagerness to sell off our profitable assets in this present economic climate to fill in their budget black hole, will only result in short-changing Queensland residents.

From 1 July many household budgets will be affected by the increase in vehicle registration, fuel costs, and the recent announcement of a further increase in electricity costs is another blow to our hip pocket. Community groups will also bear the burden of these increasing expenses, and I would like to reassure the many community groups who utilised the photocopier from this office, this service will continue. I realise many community groups run on a shoestring budget and I am more than happy to be able to provide this assistance.

As a new Member I unfortunately did not have a magic community database left for my use, so I would ask all community groups to please contact my office to advise their contact details. I can then contact you when new funding and other opportunities become available.

I will be holding regular Action Posts, so you will see me out and about on the side of the road again. Of course if you have any issues you wish to raise with me please contact my office at any time to organise an appointment.

In closing, I cannot thank you enough for the trust you have placed in me to be your representative in State Parliament. Your trust will not be misplaced.

Yours sincerely

Ros Bates

Ros Bates MP
Member for Mudgeeraba

▼ Ros with her 3 children - Ben, Greg and Jill.



UPDATE ON LOCAL ISSUES

M1 UPGRADE (EXIT 75, EXIT 79 AND EXIT 85)

Residents may recall in December 2008 Premier Bligh and the Federal Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Anthony Albanese announced, amidst much fanfare, funding to 'fast-track' the widening from four to six lanes between Exit 73 and Exit 77. Six months down the track and \$14M has been allocated in this year's Budget to commence this long overdue upgrade, yet there is no indication of when works will actually start.

Exit 75 is currently safe under the proposed six-laning of the M1 however the \$158 million announced by the Bligh State Government in December 2008, funded by the Federal Government, is yet to be spent.

Exit 79 is under construction and is due to be completed in June 2010. Further funding of \$17.9M was announced in the recent Queensland Budget to continue this upgrade. This much needed interchange will take traffic off the Mudgeeraba Road/Railway Street roundabout and will be a welcome relief for the neglected residents of the Mudgeeraba area.

The **Exit 85** interchange has also been allocated funding of \$35.2M from the recent Budget. This is to provide access to the new Varsity Lakes railway station, and planning for the future upgrade of this interchange.

It is time for the buck passing between State and Federal Governments on the M1 upgrade to stop. It is now up to the State Government to get on with the job.

SPRINGBROOK ROAD

The Gold Coast-Springbrook Road was closed for eight weeks and whilst I understand and sympathise with the residents and businesses in Springbrook by the delay in reopening the road, I was satisfied Main Roads were doing all they could to get the road reopened to traffic as quickly as possible.

I inspected the land slide area with Main Roads and can attest to the extraordinary efforts they undertook to ensure this section of road was safe for locals and tourists alike. Main Roads took the opportunity to bring forward much needed improvements to this road whilst it was closed to the public. This included resurfacing of dangerous curves, clearing out of gutters and replacing damaged guard rails.

BEECHMONT ROAD

Many of you would be aware there has been 17 separate vehicle accidents on Beechmont Road since December 2008, with a recent accident sadly resulting in a fatality. Prior to the election, \$2.5M was announced by the State Government to upgrade this road. I am happy to report this funding will be delivered as part of the Roads Implementation Program. Whilst this amount is well short of the amount needed to undertake proper upgrading, it is an example of how people power can have a positive influence.

I have met with Main Roads and the Better Roads for Beechmont group and the three important sections to be included as part of this upgrade have been identified. Other funding avenues are being sought through the Federal Government's Black Spot Program. I thank the many concerned residents of Lower Beechmont who have fought side by side with me on this issue.



ROS BATES HAS A STRONG PLAN FOR MUDGEERABA

"This election is about providing a strong local voice who will continue to fight hard to deliver better services for all of us."



UPGRADE BEECHMONT ROAD

BEECHMONT ROAD IS A DISGRACE! The school children are at risk every time the dangerous road is used. SEND YOUR PROTEST MESSAGE NOW!

Ros BATES & Adam McLEOD LNP Candidates for Mudgeeraba

Patching the road and filling in gutters is not good enough!

LABOR WANTS TO TAKE OUR WATER

AND ADD HOSPITAL WASTE AND SEWAGE TO OUR DRINKING SUPPLIES...

The LNP supports the use of recycled waste water for electricity generation and industrial use only.

THE LNP PUTS PATIENTS FIRST

CUTTING HOSPITALS

It's time for a fresh start for health, with hospital boards run by the local community, for the local community.

FAST-TRACK THE M1

2 years of protesting for the Nations Road interchange, and 2 years of waiting for Labor to fast-track the M1 is too long!

SAVE THE OVERPASS AT EXIT 75

Is a Bridge a Bridge? Not when it's a bridge over a highway! The M1 will be a disaster for the local community. SEND YOUR PROTEST MESSAGE NOW!

Ros BATES LNP

The LNP is committed to retaining the overpass with the widening of the M1 to eight lanes.

UPGRADE WORONGARY ROAD

WORONGARY ROAD IS A COW PADDOCK! The wrong way round a gutter is how the road is used. SEND YOUR PROTEST MESSAGE NOW!

Ros BATES LNP

Stop the buck passing between levels of government. Proper maintenance and upgrading of this road needs to be completed.

FIGHTING FOR A NEW HIGH SCHOOL WEST OF THE M1

LABOR'S APPROACH School not high priority! Feelings run high for school. SEND YOUR PROTEST MESSAGE NOW!

Ros BATES LNP

As our local population increases, services need to also keep pace. Local families need and deserve a High School in their area.

STOP SHORTCUTS THROUGH MUDGEERABA

STOP OF THE LNP! GIVE THE MUDGEERABA ROAD A BROAD BRUSH! The road is a disaster for the local community. SEND YOUR PROTEST MESSAGE NOW!

Ros BATES LNP

The planned closure of the northbound lane needs to be revised and proper community consultation undertaken.

TOUGH ON CRIME

TOUGH ON CRIMINALS! TOUGH ON DRUGS! TOUGH ON VIOLENCE! TOUGH ON SEXUAL OFFENCES! TOUGH ON SEXUAL OFFENCES! TOUGH ON SEXUAL OFFENCES!

Enforce Queensland's justice system, not a legal system, and modernise police powers.

UPGRADE SPRINGBROOK ROAD

SPRINGBROOK ROAD IS A DISGRACE! The road is a disaster for the local community. SEND YOUR PROTEST MESSAGE NOW!

Ros BATES LNP

The 1km sections either side of the Primary School are in urgent need of upgrading for the children's safety.

DESIGNATED TRAILBIKE TRACKS

BECAUSE THIS DOESN'T NEED TO HAPPEN IN OUR BACKYARDS

Work with local residents and the trail bike riding community to deliver consensus solutions.

STOP OVERHEAD POWERLINES IN REEDY CREEK

The energy power industry is your property! If you have a power line in your area, you have a power line in your area. SEND YOUR PROTEST MESSAGE NOW!

Ros BATES LNP

Fight for all new powerlines to be placed underground in established residential areas.

ROS BATES LIBERAL-NATIONAL PARTY (LNP) FOR MUDGEERABA

FIGHTING FOR A BETTER GOLD COAST

WORONGARY ROAD

Thank you to all of the residents who signed my protest card calling for Worongary Road to be upgraded. These cards have been sent to the Premier and I am awaiting a response. I have also lodged a Question on Notice to the Minister for Main Roads on this issue and look forward to his response.

The number of potholes on this road due to the recent rains have increased dramatically, and the patchwork quilt it now resembles is a danger to all who travel this road. I have met with Main Roads and have been advised no funding has been allocated to upgrade Worongary Road.

I strongly urge all residents to notify Police of near misses or any accidents that occur on Worongary Road - these statistics are used by Main Roads when determining priority and allocation of funding. I can assure residents I will continue to fight for this upgrade.



24 HOUR POLICE STATION PETITION



In May I tabled a petition with over 2500 signatures from local residents demanding a 24 hour police station with increased counter services, and to increase the number of police in our area. It is important local residents continue to report any and all incidences so our crime statistics are a true representation of what is happening in our area.

I would also like to advise residents if they have concerns they are welcome to attend the Police Consultative Committee meeting held at 5.30pm, on the 1st Monday of each month at the Mudgeeraba Police Station. This meeting is open to the public and I would encourage residents to attend and have their say.

OVERHEAD POWERLINES - REEDY CREEK



In the dying days of the last election the Labor State Government finally succumbed to people power and announced the overhead power lines in Reedy Creek would go underground. Whilst this announcement was received in good faith by the residents, it is extremely disappointing to see this election promise excluded from the Bligh Government's recent Budget.

I would like to thank all of the residents in Reedy Creek who responded to my postcard protest, with the response an overwhelming NO for overhead power lines. I can assure residents I have already put the State Government on notice about this issue, and will continue to fight to ensure this election commitment is honoured.

ANZAC DAY SERVICE

One of my first official function as your newly elected MP was to attend the Dawn Service at Mudgeeraba, and the Mudgeeraba RSL's Sunset Service. Congratulations to the Mudgeeraba RSL on both services. I also attended the Robina Anzac Day service, and Springbrook's Memorial service. It was pleasing to see so many young people attending these services. I have provided a Letter of Support for the funding of a new cenotaph at Springbrook, which is being sponsored by the Gold Coast City Council.



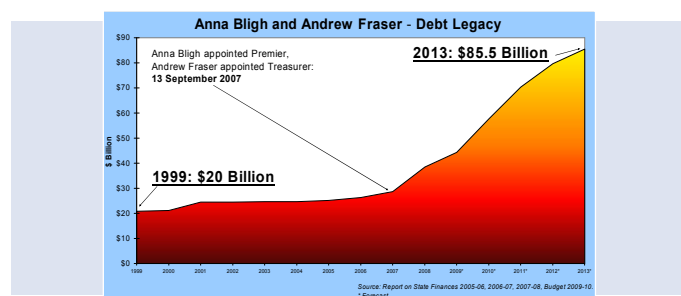
NEW HIGH SCHOOL NEEDED

I have been contacted by many local parents in support of a new State High School to be built west of the M1. Government figures for 2009 show 48,478 students attend state schools at 100 percent plus capacity, while 21,227 are at school at 98-99 percent capacity.

These figures reinforce why I have continued to lobby for a new high school west of the M1 for the past two years. Sixty-eight percent of the Mudgeeraba electorate are under 45 years of age with school aged children, and with a growth rate of 3.7% per annum surely the Bligh Labor Government must have plans to build a state high school to service the needs of our rapidly growing community.

I will continue to lobby Education Queensland and Premier Bligh on this issue. A petition for a feasibility study on this issue has been created, and can be signed at my office or in many of your local shops throughout the electorate.

2009/2010 BUDGET UPDATE



The once proud history of Queensland as a low-tax, lifestyle capital of Australia is now becoming a distant memory. This budget is the result of our economic decline under eleven years of a Labor Government. A debt of \$85.5 billion by 2013 will leave an average household of four facing a debt of \$78,000 each.

Although there are many omissions from this Budget for our area, the funding announcements listed below are welcomed:

- \$17.89M for the Robina Health precinct;
- \$72.37M towards the expansion of the Robina Hospital;
- \$120M to continue raising of the Hinze Dam;
- \$97.3M to continue extending the Gold Coast Railway from Robina to Varsity Lakes.

In light of our asset sell-off, it is important the Queensland Government ensure all funding allocated is utilised on time, and on budget.

UPCOMING ACTION POSTS

I will be at the following locations and would encourage residents to come and speak with me about local issues:

REEDY CREEK - Saturday 25 July 2009 at 10:00am
Outside shops, corner of Bridgman Drive and Gemvale Road

MUDGEERABA - Saturday 8 August 2009 at 10:00am
The Mill, Corner of Gemvale Road and Somerset Drive

GILSTON - Saturday 15 August 2009 at 10:00am
Outside Gilston Hall, Worongary Road

WEBSITE

My new website is nearly completed. Residents will be able to look at my media releases, download speeches, view community events I have attended or am hosting, and sign up for my e-newsletter.



HOON WATCH

I would encourage residents and businesses who witness hooning activities to continue to fill in my 'Hoon Watch' forms. As a result of these forms being received by the Mudgeeraba Police, a number of warnings have been issued to drivers.



Compared to the same time last year, we are seeing an increase of three times the number of cars impounded in the same period. It is obvious that residents are fed up with hoons and are providing police with local intelligence to apprehend these habitual law breakers.

I call on residents to play an active role in keeping their local streets safe. Hoon Watch forms can be collected from my electorate office or can be downloaded from my website.

GRAFFITI WATCH

In response to the increase in graffiti in local areas, I have created a 'Graffiti Watch' program (similar to Hoon Watch), to allow residents to anonymously report incidents of graffiti to Police.



Graffiti offences should also be reported to the Gold Coast City Council on their **Graffiti Hotline - 5581 7998** or via email graffiti@goldcoast.qld.gov.au

Graffiti Watch forms can be collected from my electorate office or can be downloaded from my website.

TONER RECYCLING

It has been estimated over 80% of our used cartridges are going directly to landfill with Australians throwing away more than 18 million cartridges every year. This amounts to over 5,000 tonnes of material including laser toner cartridges, inkjet cartridges, photocopier toner bottles and drums, that will eventually end up in landfill.



I have placed a toner recycling carton in my office and would encourage local businesses and residents to drop their toners into my office for recycling.

COMPANION CARDS

The Queensland Companion Card program has been introduced for people with a disability with a lifelong need for attendant care support in order to enable them to participate in community life. The program promotes fair ticketing for people who need this kind of support and removes one of the barriers to their participation in activities and events - the expense of purchasing an additional ticket for their companion. **Call 13 13 04 or visit www.companioncard.asn.au** (select Queensland) for further information.



QUEENSLAND FLAGS

A Queensland Flag is available through the State Government's free flag scheme. Eligible organisations such as schools, youth organisations, community service groups and sporting clubs can request a Queensland flag. For further information on this scheme, **please contact my office on 5569 0482.**



CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

My office can help you apply for a congratulatory message to be sent to yourself or someone you know who is about to celebrate a significant birthday or wedding anniversary.



**Queensland
Government**

You will need to provide supporting documentation like a birth certificate or marriage certificate. If these are not available you can provide a statutory declaration.

Anniversary messages can be delivered directly to the recipient or to a care-of-address for surprises.



ROS BATES MP

State Member for Mudgeeraba

Our kids among worst in West

The Courier Mail
17/06/09

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

As a new member of Parliament and nurse, I am pleased to be a member of the Social Development Committee established to monitor and report on issues in the policy areas of health, education and training, social welfare services, community development, housing, child safety, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander policy. An enquiry has been launched into the impact of chronic diseases in Queensland communities, and the steps required to reduce this incidence.

The Committee invites interested organisations and individuals to make a written submission addressing the enquiry's terms of reference by 31 July 2009.

For further information visit

www.parliament.qld.gov.au/sdc/

WHY WE SHOULD WORRY

Childhood diabetes increasing.

Almost 20,000 children are victims of physical or sexual assault.

65,000 children are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

More than one third of child deaths are preventable.

More than one fifth of children are overweight or obese.

Indigenous children are disadvantaged across many health and social factors and are three times more likely to die.

Australia ranks poorly against other OECD countries on childhood mortality and teenage birth rates.

One in six pregnant women smoke and 60 per cent drink alcohol during their pregnancy.

Dental decay is increasing among 6-year-olds.

