

BATES BULLETIN OUR MUDGEERABA



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www.rosbates.com.au

Don't forget to check out my website regularly as it is updated on a daily basis and includes information on:

- * where I have visited ;
- * speeches made in Parliament ;
- * Questions on Notice lodged ;
- * Local issues ;
- * media releases, and ;
- * a weekly update on the roadworks in and around our area (ie: M1 interchanges).

YOU CAN ALSO FOLLOW ME ON

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DEAR RESIDENTS

As we head into the festive season, it is an opportune time to reflect over the past year, and what a busy year it has been!

Since my last newsletter I have enjoyed travelling around the electorate visiting schools, childcare centres, local sporting clubs, nursing homes, retirement villages, emergency services groups and meeting with the Pastors from our local churches.

There are still other groups I am trying to get to, so if you would like to organise a visit, please contact Margo in my office on 5569 0482.

The majority of contact my office receives revolves around roads, policing and council issues. As a result, I now hold monthly meetings with the Mudgeeraba Police, Main Roads, and my local councillors to resolve these issues.

I am determined to ensure that the buck-passing between all levels of government and departments will cease.

GAMBLING COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

All community groups should now be aware the Office of Liquor Management and Gaming Regulation has released a new e-business grants management system.

All applications submitted will now be online and all aspects of the grant will now be managed electronically. Referees are now listed instead of formal letters of support, so I encourage community groups to continue to contact my office as I am in full support of any grant application/s.

SCHOOL SAFETY ZONES

The LNP has released a discussion paper to allow residents an opportunity to share their ideas for making school zones safer for children.

The discussion paper encourages residents, motorists and the school community to consider the benefits of -

- Flashing lights on all school speed signs when zones are active
- Heavier fines for speeding in school zones
- Safety audits for school set downs to prioritise works.

I encourage everyone to get involved as these are our local schools and children. The discussion paper can be answered online at www.rosbates.com.au or a paper form can be collected from my office.

HIGH SCHOOL PETITION

I would like to remind residents the petition calling for a feasibility study on a new State High School to be built west of the M1 is still open. With 36% of our children crossing the M1 every day to go to school, I am not prepared to wait 20 years for services to keep pace with our rapidly growing community.

Figures released earlier this year show 48,478 students attend state schools that are at 100 percent plus capacity, while 21,227 are at schools that are at 98-99 percent capacity.

You can download a copy of the petition from my website -
www.rosbates.com.au/pages/local-petitions/

AND FINALLY.....

At a time of year when consumption levels are at their highest and more waste is generated than any other occasion, the festive season is an opportunity for us all to reduce our environmental impact in so many ways.

Go to www.festiverecycling.planetark.org.au and download a copy of the **Festive Season Green Guide** for hints and tips on how to reduce your environmental impact and save money. I will be donating my used Christmas cards to local child care centres for use as craft materials, and I encourage other residents to help our local centres as well.

Christmas is the time of giving and sharing. I would like to wish you and your loved ones a wonderful and safe festive season.

Yours sincerely



Ros Bates MP
Member for Mudgeeraba

P.S. If your complimentary 2010 calendar was not enclosed, please contact my office and we'll post one out to you.

UPDATE ON LOCAL ISSUES

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

The Exit 75 overpass remains safe under the proposed six-laning of the M1. The widening to four lanes between Nerang and Worongary is due to commence next year and whilst I welcome this announcement, the fact it will take 2 years to build 6 kms of road is yet another example of a tired Labor Government, out of touch with our local needs.

Exit 79 is still under construction and is due to be completed in June 2010. The second overpass bridge is now in place, and when installed the traffic signals on the western side will direct traffic away from the western roundabout.

Thank you to the residents of The Glades who worked with me to raise safety issues for motorists during construction with Main Roads and Police. A speed camera is now a regular fixture at this interchange as police enforce the 80km/h speed limit put in place for the duration of the upgrade. I urge motorists to consider the safety of workers and SLOW down!



The Exit 85 interchange has commenced and been a hive of activity. This upgrade will allow vehicle and pedestrian access to the new Varsity Lakes rail station. The full upgrade is expected to be completed in early 2011.

★ **A win on sound barriers.** The lack of proposed noise barriers on this interchange has been a concern for many residents. Initial discussions with Main Roads outlined no capacity to install noise barriers along this upgrade.

However, residents (particularly those in Encamp St) who have been severely affected by road noise decided to take action. Main Roads are now investigating noise assessment for this area including barriers on Old Coach Road opposite Encamp Street, and barriers on Gemvale Road at Kings Christian College and the Reedy Creek Baptist Church.

I thank the many residents who took the time to contact me on this issue.

BEECHMONT ROAD

Following a meeting between Main Roads and the Better Roads for Beechmont group, the section of Beechmont Road between Mirani Street and Elimbah Court has now been realigned and resurfaced. Other works to be undertaken include pull-off zones, and guardrails along identified high-risk areas. I will be continuing to lobby the Bligh Government and Federal Government for funding to continue the upgrade of this road.

Minister moves on motorway safety

SAFETY BARRIERS

★ It was a win for 'people power', which forced the Minister for Main Roads to back down and install temporary safety barriers on the M1 following a public protest. These temporary barriers are now in place and in perfect time for the busy festive period just around the corner.

The win also changed Main Roads policy that families of deceased relatives killed on Main Roads will no longer receive a bill for the damage. The Minister was forced to apologise for this cruel reminder in Parliament following a Question Without Notice by me.

There still remains a further 6km section of the M1 from Worongary to Robina that does not have barriers and I will continue to be a loud voice on this issue and encourage residents to sign the petition online at www.parliament.qld.gov.au/view/EPetitions_QLD

WORONGARY ROAD

The issue of upgrading Worongary Road is not one that I am prepared to let go. I recently lodged Questions on Notice to the Minister for Main Roads and requested information on the count of vehicles on this road on a yearly basis, and the number of accidents and fatalities that have been recorded since 2000.

I have also written to the Minister requesting the Bligh Government recommence their negotiations with the Gold Coast City Council (GCCC) to 'demand' Worongary Road. This would mean the GCCC would take over responsibility for this road. I believe this would be the best outcome to get Worongary Road upgraded given the Bligh Government has not allocated any money in the 'Road Implementation Program' for the next 5 to 10 years.

OVERHEAD POWERLINES

REEDY CREEK

The Bligh Labor Government is dragging it's feet on their election promise to underground the overhead powerlines along Asperia Court.

I recently met with the Minister for Natural Resource, Mines, Energy & Trade, who tabled a third option for this section of powerline. I advised the Minister I would be taking this third option to the community for their say, and made it very clear if they did not approve, then nothing less than their election commitment of placing the powerline underground would be accepted.

MUDGEERABA

Energex is planning a major upgrade of the Mudgeeraba West 33/11kV substation. I raised this issue with the Minister and also met with Energex, and advised I would not support the construction of new overhead powerlines in established residential areas or near sporting facilities.

The upgrade along Old Coach Road and Franklin Drive is an upgrade of existing powerlines. Currently we are on the same grid as Varsity Lakes and if there is an accident or blackout in that area, it affects us in Mudgeeraba.

Community Forums

I will be convening Community Forums in Reedy Creek and Mudgeeraba to allow residents the opportunity to discuss local issues on roads, powerlines and policing directly with Main Roads, Energex and the Police. Details of these forums will be advertised shortly as venues and dates are finalised.

MYTH BUSTER

As Premier Bligh and her government lurch from one crisis to another, residents would have received a tax-payer funded brochure from the Bligh Labor Government attempting to justify the fire sale of our State assets.

This so-called 'information awareness campaign' has cost Queensland taxpayers \$2 million. Coupled with an increase in electricity prices, an increase in car registration, the sale of our assets, the removal of the fuel levy, the debacle of Traveston Dam and the threat of an increase to the already failed Tugun desalination plant, and now a new mandatory "green form" that you will have to fill in to sell your home, this Government cannot be trusted.

Make no mistake! This is an urgent fire sale in response to the debt crisis caused by a State Government who went bust in a boom, a Government that has plunged us into \$85.5 billion in debt and the only state in Australia to lose its AAA credit rating.

THE SCIENCE EXPERIENCE

I am very excited to sponsor Daisy Ambach from Robina State High School in The Science Experience program. This program is designed to provide students who have an interest in science with an opportunity to engage in a wide range of fascinating science activities under the guidance of scientists who love their work.



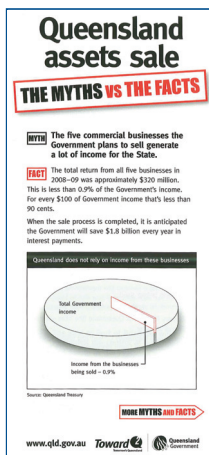
Daisy has elected to attend the program at Griffith University early next year, with participants performing experiments in laboratories, they will meet and hear senior lecturers, attend site visits, and experience what it is like to be on campus of a university or a tertiary institution.

I am sure you will join me in wishing Daisy all the best. For students interested in applying for the next program, further information can be found at www.scienceexperience.com.au

GOODING DRIVE ROUNDABOUT

A constant complaint I hear from Carrara and Merrimac residents is the failure of drivers to properly navigate the Gooding Drive roundabout. Having had near misses myself I am well aware of the problem and it was one of the first issues I raised with the Department of Main Roads after I was elected.

★ The Department of Main Roads has now undertaken a traffic count for traffic modelling for possible improvements to the Gooding Drive roundabout. As a result, I am pleased to announce funding of \$400,000 has been allocated under the Safer Roads Sooner program in 2009/2010. Options to be considered include traffic signal metering during peak times, and anti-skid treatments on some or all of the approaches.



COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT



ATTENDED BALI BOMBING MEMORIAL SERVICE



JUDGED THE INAUGURAL BEECHMONT PLATEAU GARDEN COMPETITION



HANDING OVER THE KEYS TO A NEW TRACTOR FOR THE GOLD COAST MODEL FLYING CLUB



ATTENDED MUDGEERABA SHOW WITH SHADOW MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES, RURAL & REGIONAL QUEENSLAND - RAY HOPPER MP

PARLIAMENTARY ROUND-UP

I thank those residents who have taken the time to contact me with their concerns about legislation being pushed through Parliament. The Bligh Labor Government is taking the residents of Mudgeeraba for granted by closing down debate on important legislation, and denying elected representatives their chance to speak on behalf of their constituents.

Despite this, I have been a vocal voice and below are some extracts of the speeches made in Parliament recently. Full copies of my speeches can be downloaded from my website at www.rosbates.com.au/speeches

"The performance management systems audit identifies fundamental weaknesses in the current practices more than 4 years after Queensland Health first responded to the criticisms generated from the Forster Report. It is fairly obvious from the report there is no clear link between planning and the funding allocation process, and basically no planning equals planning to fail."

"Health service planning should always involve consultation with clinicians, providers and service managers - those people at the coalface who will be responsible for actually implementing the plan - and also consultation with the communities and the consumers who will be using the services that are planned."

HANSARD 17/06/2009 - Motion : Queensland Health

"It is estimated that the shortage of dwellings in South East Queensland will require three quarters of a million new dwellings by 2031 to cope with the major housing shortage"

"The State Government in the recent Budget predicted that an additional \$5,000 would be added to the cost of each new house block throughout Queensland, and at a time when other Governments are attempting to stimulate the economy, albeit through misguided means, the Queensland Government is making Queensland more expensive to live in."

HANSARD 3/09/2009 - Sustainable Planning Bill 2009

"In 2006 this provision of the Criminal Code was repealed for questionable reasons that subsequently lead to allowing Members of Parliament to deliberately mislead the Legislative Assembly and its Committees without fear of criminal sanction that had previously existed since the Criminal Code was drafted in 1899."

"This is the same Government who whilst introducing a Charter of Budget Honesty Bill before the election, called an early election to ensure that the public did not know the level of debt that we were in, and it is the same public who were not consulted about selling off our assets."

HANSARD 7/10/2009 - Criminal Code (Honesty & Integrity in Parliament) Amendment Bill 2009

"The residents of the Gold Coast are sick and tired of being treated like second-class citizens. Whilst we were on water restrictions for years, residents in Brisbane were hosing their driveways."

"We have a desalination plant that is falling apart and now this Government, because of its inability to plan for the future, is taking our water for Brisbane."

HANSARD 29/10/2009 - South East Queensland (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) and Natural Resources Provisions Bill 2009

"Combined with the increase in the price of water, already mooted by the takeover of water assets from the councils, Queenslanders are now looking at a further increase threatened by the Premier in her justification for the Rudd Government's slap in the face to wasted money spent on a dam at Traveston that no-one wanted. The Premier should not have been surprised about this given that this is now the second dam that Kevin Rudd has stopped in Queensland."

HANSARD 12/11/2009 - Building and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2009

Congratulations
to Robina State High School
who recently won the Showcase Award for Excellence
in Community Partnerships at the State Gala
Dinner for their 'League in Life' program



ROS BATES MP

State Member for Mudgeeraba

HEALTH LISTENING TOUR

I recently accompanied Mark McArdle MP, Shadow Minister for Health, on a tour of western Queensland health facilities.

We started in Townsville and drove to Charters Towers, Hughenden, Winton, Cloncurry, Mt Isa, finishing the tour in Mackay.

It was an eye opener to see just how centralised all our outback health services have become, with residents having to be flown out by the Royal Flying Doctor Service for treatment.

Treatment that they could have had in their own towns if medical services had not been reduced and cut back.

Medical and nursing staff are not being attracted to these rural and remote areas as the Queensland Labor Government have closed down operating theatres, birthing suites, and accident and emergency departments.



The current Minister for Health has shown nothing but contempt for his portfolio.

This is clearly shown by his comments that overworked and tired Doctors should drink more coffee, and the recent failure to properly check the credentials of a Zimbabwe-trained Doctor. Has this government learnt nothing from the Patel debacle?

We, as Queenslanders, deserve a well run, modern, and safe health system.