

# BATES BULLETIN

OUR MUDGEERABA

EDITION 3 JULY 2010

## Dear Residents

I recently celebrated my first year anniversary as your elected representative, and I can honestly say I am thoroughly enjoying the job. The support I have received in my first year has been wonderful, and I can assure you I will continue to be your strong local voice in Brisbane to accurately represent your views.

Roads continue to be the biggest issue in our local area. Securing a major back flip from the Minister to install temporary safety barriers on the M1, the upgrade to parts of Beechmont and Springbrook Roads and the \$400,000 allocation for sequenced lighting at the dangerous Gooding Drive roundabout, have been a few wins that I secured in my first year. There remain issues such as the gridlock at Exit 85 in Reedy Creek and the M1 upgrade that I am currently working my way through.

I have secured over \$150,000 in funding for our local community groups through the Gambling Community Benefits Fund. Local schools have received funding of over \$2M to assist

with installation of new servers, construction of lecture theatres, verandahs and furniture.

I will continue to be your local voice in Parliament and in my first 12 months lodged 58 Questions on Notice, 4 Questions Without Notice and have spoken on 70 pieces of legislation and adjournment debates. This is in stark contrast to the former Member who only spoke on 162 occasions in 8 years of representing you.

As promised before the election I continue to hold regular Action Posts from Reedy Creek to Carrara as I believe residents should be given the opportunity to speak with their elected representatives at all times, not just when an election is announced. For upcoming dates of my action posts visit my website [www.rosbates.com.au](http://www.rosbates.com.au)

## Waste Watch



The LNP has launched a new campaign and is encouraging Queenslanders to blow the whistle on government waste. As a key contact of the Waste

Watch Team I am determined to ensure taxpayers money is spent wisely, and that Government spending is as carefully managed as you and your family watch your own finances.

Since the last State Election, more than a billion dollars in government waste has come to light including \$600M on the failed Traveston Dam, and \$400M on a new computer payroll system that still doesn't work.

If you know of examples of Government waste and red tape, visit [www.stoplaborwaste.com](http://www.stoplaborwaste.com) and have your say.

In closing, I would like to thank those of you who take the time to bring local issues and your concerns to my attention. You are my eyes and ears in the community and together with your help, we can achieve a lot for our area.

Yours sincerely

Ros Bates MP  
Member for Mudgeeraba



Gold Coast Bulletin 4/5/2010

## Springbrook

As a result of the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability's statement that she would hold a community meeting to address the concerns of residents, a request has been sent to the Minister seeking a suitable date. No response has been forthcoming at the time this brochure went to print.

From the outset let me clarify, I am NOT against the rehabilitation of our heritage listed Springbrook National Park. I do however, share the concerns of many residents on the \$40m buy-up and rescue project undertaken by the Beattie/Bligh Government.

I look forward to the proposed community forum, so those who live in Springbrook are given the opportunity to ask questions directly of the Minister.

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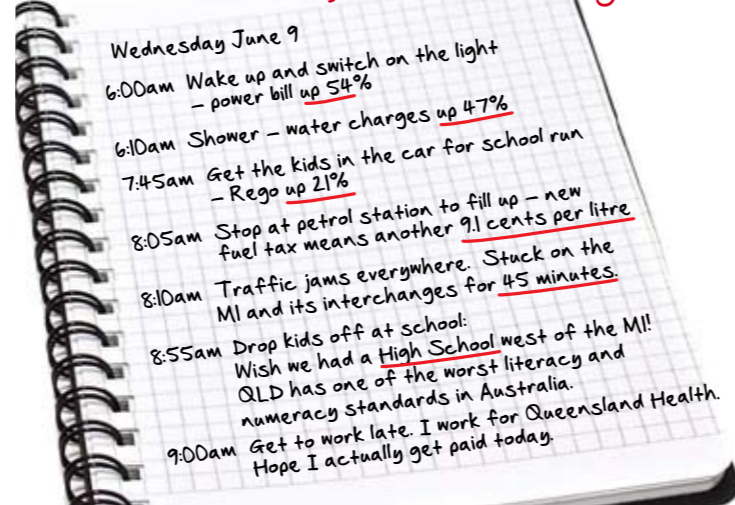


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1. Attended the Merrimac Neighbourhood Watch Family Fun Day
2. Visiting local retirement villages.
3. Presenting Community Volunteer Award to Gold Coast Motorcycle Enthusiasts Club
4. Inspecting damaged stock as a result of the flooding at Clagiraba
5. Attended the ANZAC Day Ceremony at the new cenotaph in Springbrook
6. Visiting Mudgeeraba Redsox with Shadow Minister for Sport, Jack Dempsey MP

## Another State Budget

*Was this your morning?*



### It Doesn't Have to Be Like This!

In the State Budget, the government refused to provide any relief for the spiralling costs of living. In contrast the State Opposition's policy is to oppose the introduction of the fuel tax; oppose the sale of Queensland assets and oppose the increase of electricity prices.

To find out more about our local area go to [www.rosbates.com.au](http://www.rosbates.com.au) for my Budget Reply Speech.

### State Budget 2010/2011

Once again residents in the Mudgeeraba electorate have been handed more proof of Labor's incompetence and inability to manage Queensland's finances, as we are pushed further into debt by Anna Bligh and her Treasurer, Andrew Fraser.

We are now burdened with a record \$83.5 billion dollars in debt, and the loss of our AAA credit rating is costing taxpayers \$1.2 billion in extra interest payments alone. We have been delivered four deficit budgets in a row with no debt reduction strategy in sight.

When we fill up our cars it costs an extra 9.1 cents per litre thanks to Bligh's new tax, car registration continues to rise and toll fees go up but spending on much needed road infrastructure is postponed, re-announced, re-hashed and will continue to not only NOT meet the needs of south-east Queensland, but will also ensure that every project which has been postponed will blow out.

This unfortunately for Queenslanders is only the tip of the iceberg. The Governments decision to increase water and electricity prices is now locked in. Every time

Queenslanders fill up their cars, turn on the taps and flick on the lights they are paying more thanks to the incompetence of Bligh and Labor. Since the privatization of Energex and Ergon energy by this Government electricity charges have increased by a massive 54%.

From a local perspective residents of Mudgeeraba have once again missed out in this budget as Labor pushes funding to its marginal electorates in Brisbane.

At first glance, funding announcements for our area looked promising. But once you get past the spin it is obvious to everyone that funding for the Robina and Reedy Creek interchanges, upgrading Beechmont Road and funding for the Robina Hospital upgrade have been announced in previous Budgets.

On closer examination, it begins to look familiar. The Beechmont Road upgrade claimed in this year's Budget was an election commitment first announced in 2009. The M1 and associated interchange upgrades were reannounced yet again. The expected cost of the Robina Hospital expansion has now jumped \$34M since the 2008-2009 Budget due to an under-spend, which will lead to future cost blowouts.

### M1 Upgrade (Exit 79, Exit 82 And Exit 85)

The often announced, long-anticipated widening of the M1 to six lanes between Nerang and Worongary has finally commenced, six years after it was first announced and 17 months after Bligh announced that this section of the M1 would be 'fast-tracked'.

Unfortunately we have been short-changed again as the original announcement was eight lanes from Nerang to Tugun. So now we are getting a quarter of the money, a quarter of the length, and motorists will have to put up with two years of construction for 4.1 kilometres of road and speed reduced to 80kms per hour.

Residents who live along Hinkler Drive and Robina Parkway will feel the effect as motorists begin to utilise local streets to avoid delays during construction. Better late than never, but one wonders how much this upgrade has already blown out when it should have been commenced six years ago.

Robina Town Centre Drive (Exit 79) upgrade is nearing completion, with the second overpass bridge now open to traffic. The southbound on-ramp is also open and will bring some much-needed relief for residents at The Glades. Once the traffic signals on the western side come online, there should be a marked improvement in the reduction of traffic on the western roundabout at Railway Street.

Robina Parkway (Exit 82) received some funding for project planning in the past two Budgets, but unfortunately we will not see any improvement at this interchange until Exit 79 and Exit 85 upgrades are completed.

Reedy Creek (Exit 85) is causing major headaches for motorists who come from the Observatory or whose children attend any of the Christian schools west of the M1.

Traffic delays have been experienced as a result of incorrect phasing of lights on the overpass and changes to line markings on the Gemvale Road roundabout. Main Roads by their own admission did not realise the impact that changes to this interchange would have on local traffic. Thank you to the 250 locals who attended my Community Forum in Reedy Creek to voice their anger on this issue.

Recent traffic counts on Old Coach Road reveal that in excess of 2000 vehicles utilising the Gemvale Road roundabout daily wish to travel southbound. I am currently working on getting Old Coach Road extended to Exit 89 at Bermuda Street, where a mere 300m of bitumen would help ease congestion at Exit 85.



← Ros talking to the media about extending Old Coach Road.



▶ Ros and Shadow Minister for Main Roads & Transport, Fiona Simpson MP with concerned locals on Worongary Road

Residents can ring the Main Roads Traffic and Travel Information number 13 19 40 to get real time updates on the M1 traffic conditions prior to leaving home, and avoid the frustration of sitting in traffic gridlock.



### Worongary Road

Last year I asked the Minister for Main Roads about future funding to upgrade Worongary Road, to which he advised a paltry \$1M, already previously announced, would be spent to upgrade a mere 0.4km of road between Brixton Court and Upland Court.

With 1400 extra cars now using this road daily I have requested Main Roads to revisit the proposal to hand over this road to the Gold Coast City Council so more will be done on this patchwork quilt of a road, instead of just maintenance potholing after heavy rains. To date, after writing to the Minister twice about this asset swap, I am still waiting to hear when this meeting will take place.

### Beechmont Road

A section of Beechmont Road between Mirani Street and Elimbah Court has been completed. The \$2.5M upgrade secured in the lead-up to the last election, and re-announced yet again in this year's Budget will commence when a geotechnical report is completed. The upgrade will occur on the narrow, unlined section of road between Tarlington Road and Rosins Point.

A further section to the Bavarian Hut at the Scenic Rim also requires upgrading and I will continue to push for further funding. In addition, I am working with the 'Better Roads for Beechmont' committee to have pull-off bays and guardrails installed on the windy mountain stretch before North Road. Unfortunately this area was overlooked in the Federal Government's Budget Blackspot Program and this year's State Government Budget.

### Overhead Powerlines

#### - Reedy Creek

Residents of Reedy Creek were recently asked to have their say on their preferred option for the powerlines upgrade from Mudgeeraba to Tugun. You may recall this was also an election back flip of the Bligh Government to underground the lines following pressure to match the LNP's commitment and a victory for people power.

Feedback from community consultation with Energex revealed 79% of residents cited the major concern was a reduction in the value of house prices and overwhelmingly residents opted for the overhead option on the eastern side of the M1, as far away from established residential properties as possible. This option was not on the table in the lead-up to the election.

#### - Mudgeeraba

Following discussions with me, Energex consulted residents in Mudgeeraba who were to be affected by an upgrade to existing powerlines. As a result new powerlines in established residential areas will be placed underground. In addition I was successful in ensuring proposed powerlines near Firth Park would be placed on the other side of the road, and nowhere near where our children play sport.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Energex for consulting with the community, listening to their concerns and responding accordingly in the finalisation of these upgrades.

# Regular blood donors urgently needed



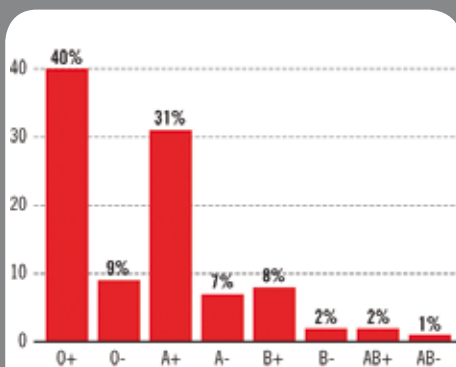
Ros visiting the Robina Red Cross Centre.

Red Cross opened up a new blood donor centre in Robina earlier this year, but unfortunately it is a constant battle for them to obtain their monthly requirements to meet the needs of their recipients.

One in three people will need blood or a blood product at some time in their lives, yet currently only one in thirty people donate. The demand for blood will double over the next 10 years, and every donation can save the lives of up to 3 people.

If you would like to donate or become a regular donor, call the Robina Blood Donor Centre on 5656 9324, or drop in and see them at 86-104 Robina Town Centre Drive.

## How many blood types are there?



## It's time Queenslanders had their say on the real issues!

At the last election, Queenslanders never got to have their say on the State Government's secret plans to sell-off \$15 billion in public assets. Queensland Rail along with our ports, forests and motorways all belong to Queenslanders, yet we have never been given a say about their fire-sale.

Selling-off \$15 billion in taxpayer owned assets will put jobs at risk and drive up our cost of living. Who could forget what happened to electricity prices after privatisation? A further increase in pricing of 13.29% from 1 July will put even more pressure on household budgets.

If the Bligh Government sells these assets, what will be left to help pay-off the \$85 billion generational debt that the State Government has left behind as a result of their inability to properly manage Queensland's economy.

Have your say at [www.jplangbroek.com/your-say/stop-privitisation](http://www.jplangbroek.com/your-say/stop-privitisation)

## New swimming pool safety laws

Queensland's swimming pool safety laws have undergone the most comprehensive review in nearly 20 years. Approximately 50 young Queensland children present to emergency departments each year following an immersion accident in a residential swimming pool, with some of these suffering lifelong brain injuries.

The Queensland Government is now implementing a two-staged improvement strategy. Stage one was introduced on 1 December 2009 and applies to new residential pools and includes a simplification of our pool fencing laws and regulation of temporary fencing for pools.

Stage two will be introduced later this year and will mostly affect existing pools. The first phase of stage two measures includes the introduction of a pool safety inspector licensing system and the establishment of a state-based pool register.



Penalties of up to \$16,500 and on-the-spot fines of up to \$700 can be imposed on pool owners if their fence does not comply with the law. For further information on how these new laws can affect you, go to [www.poolfencing.qld.gov.au](http://www.poolfencing.qld.gov.au)

## Pyjama Drive



I am calling on local residents to purchase a pair of pyjamas for Queensland's most vulnerable children as part of a national charity drive to help the more than 30,000 kids in care across Australia.

The Pyjama Foundation's pyjama drive needs PJs in all shapes, colours and sizes to help the children who enter a foster home who arrive with little – or nothing – but the clothes they are wearing.

People interested in donating summer or winter pyjamas to the foundation can drop them off at my Electorate office.