

BATES BULLETIN

our Mudgeeraba

EDITION 13 FEBRUARY 2017

Dear Residents

We have achieved a lot together since you re-elected me as your Member for Mudgeeraba at the last State election.

We have made our community safer through new Neighbourhood Watch groups, built better roads, continued to get our schools the funding and facilities they need, improved local hospitals and kept our community strong.

Last year, I was appointed as Queensland's Shadow Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence and Shadow Minister for Disability Services and Seniors. This is a significant role and I've been working hard to hold the current Government to account in these important portfolios.

Even with this extra responsibility, you have remained my priority. I have never lost sight of the fact it is you I represent. It is your area I am fighting to improve. It is your neighbourhood I am helping to keep safe, your roads I am fixing, your kids' schools I am supporting, and your health services I'm working to improve.

We have achieved a lot together, but I know there is more to be done. With your support, I will keep fighting for a better Mudgeeraba.

Yours sincerely



Ros Bates MP
Member for Mudgeeraba
Shadow Minister for Communities, Women and Youth,
Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family
Violence
Shadow Minister for Disability Services and Seniors

Biggest Community Survey

Last year, I sent Mudgeeraba's Biggest Community Survey to every home in the Mudgeeraba electorate to seek your views and input on a range of State issues that have an impact here in our local area.

Almost 1,500 responses were received, making this a statistically significant survey which will be my roadmap going forward. Thank you to the many residents who took the time to complete and return it.

90% are concerned the Government will increase our State debt and the cost of living

Oppose the scrapping of the LNP's successful criminal gang laws

81%



Concerned about the Government lifting the price freeze on family car registrations

76%

76% support returning decision-making power back to local principals and parents

64% would like to see the M1 upgraded more than any other State road

Keep in Touch with Ros

You can keep in touch with me in a number of ways to find out about the goings on in our local area.

To sign up to receive my monthly e-newsletter, Ros' Rounds, email my office with your name and email address at mudgeeraba@parliament.qld.gov.au.

You can also 'like' my Facebook page by searching Ros Bates MP or visit my website at www.rosbates.com.au.

LOCAL ISSUES

Update

Roads

M1 update

The Federal LNP Government has put up their fair share of funding to upgrade the M1 from Robina to Reedy Creek, committing to provide \$110 million to fund the project on a 50:50 basis with the State Government.

Unfortunately, the asleep at the wheel State Labor Government is refusing to contribute their fair share of funding, choosing to play politics with the M1 instead of getting this upgrade underway.

For two years, this do-nothing Labor Government has been holding up the next M1 upgrade – forgetting to ask for funding, forgetting to include this upgrade in the so-called State Infrastructure Plan, bumbling and fumbling around the funding history, and refusing to allocate any funding in two State Budgets.

This is a project with Federal funding ready to go. This Labor Government needs to stop playing politics and deliver the \$110 million we need to upgrade the M1 now.



▲ Ros calling for the next M1 upgrade with Andrew Powell MP, Shadow Minister for Main Roads



▲ Ros at the Carrara roundabout with Ray Stevens MP and Merrimac resident Barbara Malcolm

Road improvements for Reedy Creek

The Gold Coast's newest road link at Reedy Creek was opened in May 2016. Eden View Drive is a 700m two-lane road jointly funded by all three levels of government. Its construction will prevent traffic queueing in other areas of Reedy Creek such as Old Coach Road, Kingsmore Boulevard and Gemvale Road in school pick up and drop off times.

Upgrades for Springbrook

After I advocated on behalf of Springbrook residents, \$148,000 will be spent to reconfigure and upgrade the carpark at Gwongorella picnic area, making it easier to access the wonderful attractions and walking tracks at Springbrook National Park.

This follows repairs to the entry road, including filling potholes. Planning is underway and the project will start in early 2017 and be finished in early 2018.

Meanwhile, road reconstruction and resurfacing works have been undertaken on Springbrook Road, between Pine Creek Road and Bilborough Court.

Upgrade of Carrara roundabout and intersection

The Carrara roundabout at the Gooding Drive, Nerang-Broadbeach Road and Robina Parkway intersection will receive a massive \$8 million upgrade, coupled with a \$700,000 signalisation of the Gooding, Palm Meadows and Lakelands Drives intersection.

This upgrade is due to be completed mid-2017. The roundabout upgrade will include the installation of an additional lane, two new sets of control signals, a new slip lane, improved signage and the groundwork for future signalisation.

This is a project funded by the former LNP Government.

Community

Springbrook Men's Shed

After years of advocacy, I am pleased to see the Springbrook Men's Shed finally under construction. This is something the community and I have worked hard for.



▲ Ros at the Springbrook Men's Shed site with SMCA President Jim Darke



M1 road safety barriers

Additional road safety barriers on the M1 between Reedy Creek and Burleigh are being installed to improve road safety. Works are being undertaken between 8pm and 5am, predominantly Sunday to Thursday night.

Safety improvements on Beechmont Road

In a victory for my campaign to make Beechmont Road safer, \$1.6 million has been allocated for safety improvements on this road. This includes shoulder widening on the one-way section between Elimbah Court and Jardine Road and installation of guardrail and rubrail. Design will start in the New Year and finish in mid-2017, with construction to be undertaken in the 2017-18 financial year.

Another \$100,000 of funding has been bought forward to install about 540 metres of rubrail (for motorcyclist's safety) on existing guardrail at six high risk locations on Beechmont Road.

Guardrails for Worongary Road

\$147,000 has been allocated to install guardrails over culverts on Worongary Road.

Improvements for Nerang-Murwillumbah Road

\$1.7 million has been allocated for regrading works on Nerang-Murwillumbah Road near Hidden Woods Drive.



▲ Ros cutting the ribbon on the pedestrian footbridge with Principal Deirdre von Guillaume, Councillor Glenn Tozer and Karen Andrews MP

Funding boosts for local schools

Since the last State election, I have delivered almost \$3.5 million in additional funding for our local schools through the former LNP Government's Great Results Guarantee, which has been rebadged but continued under the current Government as the Investing for Success program.

Safety improvements for Bonogin Road

\$1.99 million has been allocated for safety improvements on Bonogin Road. This project is funded by the Federal Government and listed in the Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program (QTRIP) for 2016-17, with construction to be undertaken by the City of Gold Coast.

Education

Safety improvements for Mudgeeraba Creek

A \$1.8 million pedestrian footbridge jointly funded by all three levels of government has been constructed across Mudgeeraba Creek on Gold Coast-Springbrook Road near Mudgeeraba Creek State School. This will allow schoolchildren to walk to school safely, particularly following heavy rainfall as the Creek is prone to flooding.

I have also delivered flashing school zone signage for Mudgeeraba Creek State School on Hardys Road, warning motorists to slow down during school zone times and improving student safety.

Law and Order

Criminal gang laws scrapped

Late last year, the Labor Government passed laws that significantly weaken our laws dealing with organised crime and gangs. This will put the safety of Mudgeeraba residents at risk. In the months since, violence has already returned to the Gold Coast. The LNP is committed to reinstating our tough on crime laws.

New Neighbourhood Watches

Since being re-elected, I have set about making our communities safer through the successful establishment of new Neighbourhood Watch groups where we need them most: in Reedy Creek, Lower Beechmont, Bonogin Valley and the Aspect. These Neighbourhood Watch groups have elected committees whom I will continue to work with to reduce crime.

▼ Ros supporting Neighbourhood Watch at Bonogin



SHADOW MINISTRY

Update

Since my appointment as the Shadow Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence and Shadow Minister for Disability Services and Seniors, I've been holding the Labor Government to account.

In less than a year since being given my portfolio, I have uncovered systemic failings and inadequacies, particularly in the crucial areas of Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence which have occurred under the Labor Government's watch.

Child Safety

The Child Safety system is in crisis and I have been holding to account a Government more interested in spinning the numbers than keeping kids safe.

Latest figures show shocking trends. The worst part is the system is still in decline, not on the mend. These are children at risk, right now, today, waiting for Child Safety to come knocking.

The Labor Government can spin the numbers but whichever way you look at it, more at risk children are not being seen within the required 24 hour timeframe.

On the Gold Coast, a recent amber alert exposed more cracks in the Child Safety system as an at risk newborn was taken from Gold Coast University Hospital, raising questions about why Child Safety didn't alert health officials about their concerns for the newborn's safety before the child was born.

The Labor Government has not explained how this happened or guaranteed this will not happen again.

62% OF AT RISK KIDS IGNORED

11% OF CRITICAL CASES REQUIRING 24 HOUR RESPONSE MISSED

9,268 CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE AND GROWING

Domestic and Family Violence

The Labor Government is failing victims of domestic violence by allowing the trial Domestic and Family Violence Specialist Court to descend into a quagmire of delays, as victims wait up to seven and a half months for a domestic violence application hearing date.

Meanwhile, recommendations of the former LNP Government's Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland are being rolled out too slowly - with just 46 of the Taskforce's 140 recommendations having been implemented.

We need to act now. The LNP Opposition will introduce laws which would ensure victims and families are alerted when someone charged with domestic violence related crimes is being considered for, or has been granted bail.

Under our policy, victims and families will also be alerted when someone with a DVO is being considered for parole, even if the reason they are in prison is not related to domestic violence.

We will also seek to reverse the presumption for bail in domestic violence-related crimes such as assault, grievous bodily harm, deprivation of liberty, strangulation and kidnapping.



Disability Services

Thousands of our most vulnerable are set to miss out on vital support services over the next three years because of a lack of commitment from the Labor Government.

Queenslanders who have been assessed as needing disability support are languishing on the 'register of need' because the Labor Government will not address a funding shortfall in Disability Services over the next three years as the National Disability Insurance Scheme is rolled out.



▲ Ros and colleagues with youngcare staff and service users building new facilities for Disability Services

Seniors

Elder abuse reports are skyrocketing under the Labor Government's watch, with a 21% jump in just 12 months.

Elder abuse is a serious crime, and as a community we must take a zero tolerance approach to stamp it out. We need a coordinated whole of Government and community strategy to protect our vulnerable elderly.

◀ Ros announcing significant domestic violence initiatives with Tim Nicholls MP, Leader of the Opposition and domestic violence stakeholders and survivors