



Speech by

## Dr Mark Robinson

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

Hansard Wednesday, 7 October 2009

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### BIRKDALE, PUBLIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

**Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (11.57 am): I rise to call on the government to reverse a very unpopular decision to build a multistorey public housing development in Napier Street, Birkdale. The development is for two two-storey and two three-storey buildings. Although I support the provision of public housing to alleviate homelessness, this housing project is not the best use of this particular parcel of land. The land borders the current railway car park that is constantly full, with parked cars overflowing on to the street. Many commuters park illegally every day as they have no other choice in order to get to work in the city.

Birkdale rail commuters and other commuters living in the Redlands have suffered from a serious lack of car parking for far too long. Whilst I welcome the recent announcement of 50 new car spaces—a result of my call for more car spaces—the total number of available bays would still fall desperately short of demand. Further, the small piece of land that the government has set aside for car parking has important koala habitat on it that will need to be cleared. This is not a koala-friendly outcome.

The vacant bigger block has all the credentials to help alleviate present and future parking woes and is a more koala-friendly option. It has the capacity to provide for at least an additional 100 car parking spaces and is next to a disabled access ramp.

Those living in the area expected this would be the railway car park. In fact, over 500 residents have voiced their opposition to the government's public housing plan via petitions. The Redland City Council and the Birkdale Progress Association also oppose the development. I ask the government to listen to the residents of Birkdale to stop this unpopular public housing plan forced on the locals of Birkdale and to build the needed car parks on the larger block of land. I support local residents in saying no to this unwanted development.