



Speech by

Dr Mark Robinson

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

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CLEVELAND ELECTORATE, PARK-AND-RIDE SPACES

Dr ROBINSON (Cleveland—LNP) (9.39 pm): I rise to address the lack of car park spaces at train stations in the electorate of Cleveland and, in so doing, to urge the government to keep an election promise that it made and to review its 'disintegrated' plan. This month the government's rail plan ran off track when it admitted that the number of new park-and-ride spaces at Cleveland's stations would fall short of what was promised during the 2009 state election campaign. Recently the government revealed that, over the three-year period, Birkdale station would receive as little as 28 extra spaces, Ormiston station would receive 102 new spaces, while the Cleveland and Wellington Point stations would receive nothing. This plan will do little to relieve frustrated commuters who cannot find a car park.

During the 2009 election campaign, the government promised 50 extra parking spaces at Birkdale station. The most recent information provided reveals that the government has reduced that pledge from 50 to 34—minus up to six spaces to be resumed from the current car park—leaving a mere 28 extra spaces. That is not only another underwhelming achievement of the Bligh government but also a broken election promise. The people of Birkdale have been duped. They trusted the government to keep its promise, but it has again failed them. They feel even more ripped off when they contrast that plan with the LNP's plan to deliver up to 150 new spaces at Birkdale.

The only other station to receive an upgrade is Ormiston station. The vacant land adjacent to the station has the potential of providing 150 new car park spaces. The government's plan is to create 102 new spaces. Although this commitment is a more significant one than the government's commitment for car park spaces at Birkdale station, as the only significant car park spaces upgrade in all of the Redlands, it will create problems for the residents of Ormiston, particularly for the children and families of the Ormiston State School.

Then there are the omissions from Labor's 'disintegrated' plan. The government's plan does nothing for the people who live in the Wellington Point and Cleveland suburbs. Although the car park at the Wellington Point station is full, the car park at the Cleveland station is bursting and in need of a major upgrade. As I proposed in late 2008, an integrated approach that provides significant extra car parking spaces spread across a number of stations is needed. The LNP's integrated plan for Cleveland would have delivered significantly more new car park spaces over the three years across the stations at Cleveland. It would have relieved the pressure at all of the stations—unlike the government's plan, which will provide little to no relief at the Birkdale station and a bottleneck at the Ormiston station.

Tonight I call on the government to do three things in the 2010-11 budget: firstly, to keep its promise of 50 extra car park spaces at Birkdale station, not as little as 28; secondly, to provide extra car park spaces at Wellington Point station; and, thirdly, to provide funding for a feasibility study into a major redevelopment of the Cleveland station.