

## **Edited speech by Cr Helen Abrahams given on Tuesday 17th August 2010, on the parking meter roll out in Kangaroo Point.**

Thank you Madam Chair. I rise to talk about the roll out of the parking meters in Kangaroo Point.

In speaking on this issue it's probably relevant to highlight to the Council Chamber the article in last weeks City South News. Titled "Meter Squeeze Hits" it features two business people in Kangaroo Point clearly angry and concerned about no consultation with any business person about the parking meters. I quote "this move has caught many by surprise, with Story Bridge Hotel owner and resident Richard Deery claiming he was not consulted either as a home owner or a businessman." He was followed by Gary Honan, the owner of Seafarers Lodge, a business that needs to have access because of short term tenancies. He said "the consultation was so lax with glossy flyers scarce on detail, that he first believes council was extending the existing traffic extension from two hours to four hours".

This is the reality yet again of the Lord Mayor's parking meters in inner city areas. The Lord Mayor made an announcement late last year that he was going to roll out the parking meters. Therefore he had 10 months with which to consult with business people and residents in Kangaroo Point. Did he do so? No; not on your Nelly.

But guess what I saw yesterday in Kangaroo Point when all of the parking meters have being installed? Two contract staff with a bright yellow t-shirt with a big P on their chests. They were knocking on all the doors of the businesses in Kangaroo Point. So I stopped and had a chat to them and they said they been asked to write down any comments on the parking meters that are in place.

As I just stayed in the street talking, I had several residents come out of their units and we had quite a little meeting. I had to encourage the contractors to write down their complaints. That was the level of engagement with the residents of Kangaroo Point. No wonder they are expressing their anger, concern and outrage that they have had no consultation.

One of the residents actually commented that they'd just got off the phone from Councillor Knapp. Their major concern was that they lived half a block away from the ferry terminal in a residential street. Yet they have nine hour parking limits in their street. This enables all day parking and as they quite rightly expected, it has become commuter parking. It has taken over which was once a two hour limit.

Councillor Knapp honestly reported to the resident that this was not the intention. The intention of the parking meters was not to facilitate commuter parking, but she admitted to the resident that this is exactly what has happened.

### **The other objections to the parking meters raised with me have been:**

- The Number one issue is why are we having the meters. The two hour parking limits were in place and they were adequate. It has worked so it is not understood why there is an need for any parking meters whatsoever.
- The parking meters will deter business and that is the concern of Mr Deery and the other businesses in the area.

- The nine hour parking limits have been installed in McDonald Street, Main Street, Holman Street and Annie Street. Those are the four streets closest to the Holman Street ferry terminal. They are residential streets and they have all got nine hour parking limits. Do you know what's the cheapest time for a parking meter in Brisbane? Nine hours. The hourly rate is the cheapest. So we are actually encouraging people to drive to Kangaroo Point from all over Brisbane so they can hop across to the CBD on the ferry. Surely this is not what the parking meters are about? The Lord Mayor has said he was only installing the parking meters where there is contested kerbside space. It wasn't contested when there was a two hour parking limit. It worked well --

*Councillors interjecting.*

so long as it was enforced..

- Another issue is that the parking limits of nine hours and four hours in the residential streets negates any ability for visitors to come because that length of parking means the parking spaces have been taken. The visitors have absolutely no parking.
- The residential streets closest to Captain Burke Park also deficient in meters with residential permit exemptions. There are more resident permit exempt areas near the businesses and, in the main, in the residential streets there is a minimum number of resident exempt spaces. **(Of a total of 411 parking meters only 114 meters have exemption for resident permits).**
- As well as that, yellow lines preventing parking have been installed in places where there are no parking meters as a way of forcing residents to pay in the parking metered spaces. In Holman Street there was only one building; one body corporate. But consultation with one body corporate was obviously too much trouble. Even though there was 10 months. 10 months of knowing these meters were coming to Kangaroo Point and no consultation was carried out.

This is shameful. It is beyond belief and I just cannot understand how any administration can ignore the advice from Council officers that they should not proceed without consultation. Councillor Dick and I read the file and Council officers said these parking meters will not be accepted by the community. They recommended a strong consultation process if this project was to proceed.

That advice was not heeded and the community is outraged and this anger will not abate. I have now two areas within The Gabba Ward with parking meters and in both areas the residents are angry.

So Councillor QUIRK, I really suggest if you don't want angst with the roll out for the other suburbs in Councillor Hinchliffe's and my wards, stop and put the consultation in place first not after you have installed the parking meters. Then you will not need two young contract staff knocking on doors to receive an earful from people who are angry.

That is not consultation; that is a farce and I would be totally ashamed if I had anything to do with it - a project that you and the Lord Mayor are so hell bent in rolling out in Kangaroo Point.