



Helen Abrahams

COUNCILLOR FOR THE GABBA WARD

FIX PARKING PROBLEMS NOW

Local residents and small business owners continue to contact me about parking problems. Whether it's West End, Woolloongabba, South Brisbane or Kangaroo Point - there are serious parking issues which remain unresolved.

A large part of the problem is due to the Lord Mayor and his Council Administration's roll-out of more than 6,200 metered parking spaces with many in residential streets. The 2011 budget target is \$15.25 million revenue from parking meters ...that's more than double the \$6.66 million annual revenue from just 4 years ago.

Inevitably, residents are suffering because this current Council Administration hasn't placed sufficient signs exempting residents with parking permits from having to pay for metered parking in their own streets where meters have been installed.



To make matters worse, meters have pushed parking into streets that previously had no parking problems - particularly near the Central Traffic Area and The Gabba Traffic Area in West End, Highgate Hill and Woolloongabba. Streets off Gladstone Road, Montague Road and Boundary Street are now over-flowing.

I've strongly supported the removal of the parking meters from residential streets where residents support such proposals. I support free short term and strongly enforced parking in the "main road" of strip shopping centres.

The Lord Mayor and his Council Administration should start listening to the community and extend Residential Parking Permit into streets where residents support such proposals.

I'd like to know your views on this issue. Please call me on (07) 3403 2165 or email me at gabba.ward@ecn.net.au

COUNCIL DEBT UP, SERVICES DOWN

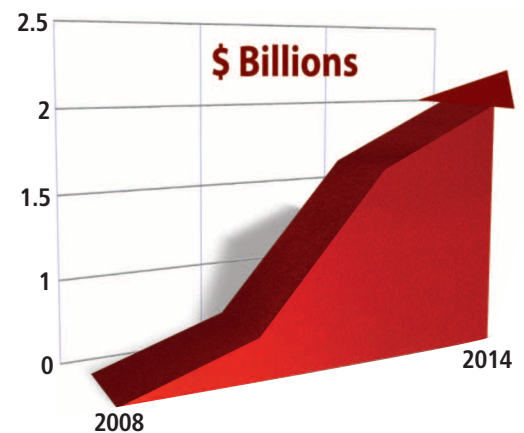
More job cuts at Council are planned. This financial year, the current Council Administration foreshadowed they will reduce council staff by 450. That's on top of the 352 they already got rid of last year.

It's just another sign of the neglect of our local suburbs.

Many more of the people who used to mow lawns, trim trees in streets and parks, clear clogged drains and fix local roads and potholes will be gone. Staff cuts mean even longer waiting periods for basic services that should be the bread and butter of local government.

These staff cuts are because of Council's crippling debt. According to the Queensland Treasury Corporation, Council's debt is expected to peak to \$2.389 billion by 2014. Massive borrowing for failed toll tunnels that aren't solving our traffic problems, like the Clem7, have left this Council exposed to huge debt repayments of up to \$4 million a week.

Council's Debt



That's \$4 million a week that could be spent on local projects in suburbs like Dutton Park, East Brisbane, Highgate Hill, Kangaroo Point, South Brisbane, West End, Coorparoo, Greenslopes, and Woolloongabba.

Better services, less waste, less debt

LOCAL FAMILIES MISS OUT

Council needs to get its priorities right for our local suburbs and focus on things like better public transport, fixing our footpaths and local roads, libraries, and better playgrounds for our kids.

Unfortunately, local families in our area continue to be overlooked by this current Council Administration. That's because this Council will need to find up to \$4 million every week on debt repayments for failed toll tunnels that aren't solving our traffic problems.

That's \$4 million wasted weekly on debt repayments for toll tunnels that aren't working, and that have to be paid for by more parking meters and rates increases. That's \$4 million that's not going into our local community.

Unfortunately, important local community projects like the traffic lights at Jane Street in West End, completing a contraflow bike lane in Stanley Street in Woolloongabba,



and the missing link of the Kangaroo Point Riverwalk, haven't been done because of this current Administration's waste and debt.

FREE PUBLIC TRANSPORT FOR SENIORS



Investing in public transport is the best way to improve accessibility in our suburbs and help reduce traffic congestion.

I support and will work towards free public transport for Brisbane's seniors.

Under a costed \$5.7 million plan, all Brisbane seniors could travel for free on Council buses, CityCats and ferries, seven days a week, during off-peak travel times.

I want to make it easier for our city's seniors to move around our suburbs, access the services they need, and deal with cost of living pressures.

This plan will also help reduce overcrowding for those travelling during peak times by spreading demand for services more evenly.

This is just the first step toward restoring funding for public transport services and getting the priorities right for our city.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that Council elections are coming up in March 2012? If you have recently moved address, update your enrolment details now.

Voting is compulsory. To check your current enrolled address or update your details, call (07) 3403 2165

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A local who listens and acts