

MEDIA RELEASE

BRISBANE LORD MAYOR SUPPORTS WOOLLOOWIN ON SHAFT

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More bad news for embattled BrisConnections and chairman Trevor Rowe. The Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Cr Campbell Newman, has come out in support of the Kalinga/Woolloowin residents over the proposed Woolloowin Worksite.

In a dramatic turn of events in Brisbane, the Lord Mayor has reversed the Brisbane City Council's original position on the proposed Woolloowin Worksite. The Kalinga Woolloowin Residents Group (KWRG) has been able to convince the Lord Mayor to alter the Council's position after lengthy discussions late last week, despite the Council originally giving conditional support to the proposed shaft.

After allegedly running into slow going in the tunnelling process, BrisConnections and contractor Thiess John Holland (TJH) have jointly proposed to Queensland's Coordinator General to sink a 42m shaft in the suburb of Woolloowin in order to drop in four road headers to assist with tunnel excavations. The KWRG has been conducting a spirited campaign to defend their quiet residential suburb from the impacts of a construction zone which they claim is being proposed in order to secure an almost \$1 Million bonus for BrisConnections CEO, Dr Ray Wilson. The proposed shaft will also limit the liquidated damages imposed on TJH, payable if they miss the completion deadline of 30 June 2012.

In a telephone conversation on Friday, 31 July 2009, the Lord Mayor advised Brian Nally of the KWRG that he will write to the Coordinator General detailing the withdrawal of his support for the proposed worksite. The Lord Mayor said to Mr Nally that he "was primarily concerned with TJH's continued disregard for the existing conditions of their contract". The Lord Mayor cited construction being conducted after 10 p.m. in residential streets and illegal road closures as just two examples of why he has changed his position. "I am a local resident and I see the litter and graffiti along the whole corridor," the Lord Mayor told Mr Nally. "I have had complaints of construction staff sexually harassing passers-by and leering at school girls. This sort of behaviour and such fundamental breaches of the conditions of the project are unacceptable. It's not how the Council does business on the Clem 7 Tunnel and it is not how BrisConnections and TJH should do business on Airport Link".

KWRG spokesman, Mr Brian Nally, said that the Lord Mayor is 'cranky' and has had enough of the blatant disregard by BrisConnections and TJH over any of the conditions imposed by the Coordinator General to date. "Now they want the community to accept a worksite at Woolloowin and trust them to abide by the conditions laid down by the Coordinator General? Pigs fly!", said a defiant Mr Nally.

"It is a significant event that The Lord Mayor has indicated he will withdraw his support for the proposed Woolloowin Worksite", said Mr Nally. "The Council's assessment that BrisConnections/TJH are not interested in complying with the conditions imposed to date is a clear sign that they will have no regard for this quiet suburb if the proposal is approved".

The KWRG has had complaints concerning intimidation, foul language in earshot of women, and construction staff urinating against a fence in Norman Street. "This is not the behaviour of a company that is interested in being a good corporate citizen. This is the behaviour of a company that thinks the rules do not apply to them" said Mr Nally. "With the Lord Mayor's stand and these continued incidents of poor behaviour, I reckon Dr Wilson will be a bit worried whether he's going to see his \$1 Million bonus", said Mr Nally.

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