



RACHEL NOLAN MP

Member for Ipswich

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NOLAN SLAMS SPRAWL

“Good planning is the key to Ipswich’s future”

Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan has slammed the backers of urban sprawl and warned that sprawl poses probably the biggest risk to the future of Ipswich.

In a recent speech to Parliament on the Integrated Planning and Other Legislation Bill, Ms Nolan said that with the city in the first stages of enormous growth, Ipswich was at a crossroads.

“We expect Ipswich’s population to more than double between now and 2026. That could be a wonderful thing. We could continue to have the strong sense of community and the wonderful quality of life that we have always had in Ipswich into the future if we plan well.

“If we do not plan well, we will create the kind of urban sprawl that already horrifies people when they drive to the Sunshine Coast and they see Brisbane sprawling out.”

Ms Nolan said that a “good Ipswich” would revitalise the CBD, have public transport corridors, clean up the river, have the Ipswich Motorway fixed and include green space like the corridor from Mt Flinders to Karawatha, on which she has been campaigning.

Ms Nolan slammed groups like the Urban Development Institute who campaign for sprawl because it provides money making opportunities for developers, regardless of the public cost.

Speaking outside Parliament Ms Nolan said, “this is a battle that’s by no means won. It’s easy for people to say they don’t like sprawl but how do they react to urban infill in their suburbs or to the idea that in the future we’ll pay more for roads and water as the city sprawls out.

“These are not easy questions but sprawl is the one thing that could ruin Ipswich – that could mess up the environment and sense of community we love now.

Ms Nolan said the State Government’s Regional Plan provided a recipe for limiting growth and building infrastructure but that all levels of government need to be vigilant.