

Queensland Parliament Hansard Green

DATE: 20/05/2015

FILE: 20052015_000634_EXTENSION_GREEN CHAMBER.DOCX

SUBJECT: University of Queensland, Community Infrastructure Designation

MEMBER: Mr EMERSON

University of Queensland, Community Infrastructure Designation

 **Mr EMERSON** (Indooroopilly—LNP) (10.51 pm): The University of Queensland at St Lucia is a wonderful asset to my local community. It is the most beautiful university campus in Australia. It provides not only educational, sporting and cultural facilities but also many employment opportunities and economic stimulus. Like many others in the area, I studied at UQ and even met my wife there while we were students. Having lived in the area for more than 30 years, I know how important it is that the university works cooperatively with the surrounding community and suburbs. Currently the university has proposed a new master plan, including an expansion of its formal boundaries, known as the Community Infrastructure Designation, or CID. This master plan has seen my office inundated with emails and calls raising concerns about the significant impact it would have on the local area. A public meeting about the master plan attracted more than 160 people. I congratulate the St Lucia Community Association for organising the meeting and recognising the depth of community concern about the UQ master plan. Those concerns cover many issues. They include traffic congestion and parking, with the university proposing a doubling of students living on campus but with a minimal increase of on-campus parking; established local businesses fear that a proposed shopping precinct would drive some to the wall as they try to compete with competitors backed by the resources of the university; the Toowong Rowing Club believes that its activities and facilities would be devastated by a proposed bridge across the river to West End; and existing campus colleges see a massive expansion of self-catered accommodation on campus as having an adverse impact.

But clearly of most concern is the expansion of UQ's CID. Under the CID, the university is not subject to Brisbane City Council building and development regulations that everyone else has to abide by. Within the CID the university can build whatever size it likes and for whatever purpose. Under its master plan, the university wants to expand its CID footprint further into the suburbs of St Lucia and Long Pocket and be free of any interference from council or any appeal rights from locals in that expanded area. The Brisbane City Council has rejected the planned expansion of the CID, but the decision rests with the state government. Approval of the expanded CID needs to be made by the state education minister, Kate Jones. I have asked the minister to meet with representatives of the St Lucia Community Association and she has kindly agreed. I would urge her to take on board its concerns and reject any expansion of UQ's boundaries and the CID.