State Exposes Bus Depot Bad Deal

Lord Mayor Campbell Newman and Civic Cabinet have approved a flawed financial and contractual arrangement for the Sherwood Bus Depot, according to the Queensland State Government's most senior Treasury official.

Councillor for Tennyson Ward, Nicole Johnston, said that exactly one year after the Bus Depot was first debated in Council the true cost of the Depot was now known to all ratepayers.

"Residents in Sherwood and Corinda have known for a year the adverse community, environmental and traffic impacts of the Sherwood Bus Depot. Today, all ratepayers should be appalled by the flawed financial deal approved in secret several weeks ago," said Councillor Johnston.

Councillor Johnston said the Lord Mayor and Civic Cabinet had ignored the State Government's very clear advice to seek alternative approaches to delivering the Bus Depot. In a letter to Brisbane City Council, the State's Under Treasurer:

- failed to endorse Council's policy rationale for the Sherwood Bus Depot;
- criticised the value for money achieved by the deal;
- urged Brisbane City Council to consult with the Queensland Treasury Corporation on alternative approaches to delivering the depot; and
- confirmed that no funding agreement was yet in place between Council and Translink to run the bus depot.

Under the terms of the escalating rental deal with purchaser Commercial and Industrial Property Pty Ltd residents will fork out up to $168 million dollars over the next 25 years, with an option for two further 10 year lease periods.

"To add insult to injury Council has now sold off the site to the private sector to operate as a smelly, noisy and invasive Bus Depot for the next 45 years. Clearly residents interests Ã§ome a distant second to 'the deal' under Lord Mayor's leadership."

"There's a saying in the construction industry that bad projects get worse while good projects get better. Nothing could be truer when it comes to the Sherwood Bus Depot."

For further information please call Nicole Johnston 3403 8605