

bypasses Coffs Harbour, access to the site will be improved. I also congratulate Michael Lockman, and I especially congratulate him and his wife on the birth of their daughter a week before the water park opened. Even though he had fatherly duties at home with his wife and baby, Isabelle, he was there for the opening and the night went off like clockwork.

Coffs Harbour is no longer regarded as the largest banana-producing area in New South Wales or, for that matter, in Australia. However, the Big Banana reminds people of the money and the work that the banana industry brought to Coffs Harbour over the years. The Big Banana started as a highway banana stall. Thousands of people now visit it on a daily basis, year in and year out. Usually mum or dad take a photograph of the children in front of the Big Banana and miss out on being in the photograph themselves but I might suggest to students with a brain that they should charge a couple of dollars to take family photographs for visitors. I think they could make a million. Thanks to the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Major Events, and Minister for Sport for providing funding through the Regional Visitor Economy Fund. It will assist Coffs Harbour to become a more attractive destination and it will give tourists and locals a great attraction to visit. In response to the earlier interjection of the member for Blacktown, I will be there in my board shorts over the Christmas break, if not before.

**Mr John Robertson:** I want to see a photo.

**Mr ANDREW FRASER:** I will bring a photo—it will not be pretty but it will be funny.

### **BLACKTOWN ELECTORATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT**

**Mr JOHN ROBERTSON** (Blacktown) [5.27 p.m.]: I speak today on behalf of those in my local community who think the proposed sale of land owned by the Department of Education and Communities at Denis Winston Drive is not smart planning and does not meet community expectations. The 3.1 hectare block of land was earmarked to be the site of a school but in a massive backflip the space was rezoned, to be sold off to developers. Blacktown is a rapidly growing area, with housing development keeping up with the growing demand of people wanting to live in our wonderful local community. Who would not want to live in Blacktown? A 40-minute train ride from the city, access to the M4, M2, M7 and the Great Western Highway and a rich cultural diversity like no other, Blacktown is a great place to live.

It is no surprise to me that developers want to build more houses in our beautiful city but we must have smart development, planned development, development that brings the community with it and not just development for development's sake. The land towards the top of Denis Winston Drive in Doonside is a beautiful piece of bushland in this suburb and is valued by many locals. This area has hundreds of healthy trees which are the remnants of the Cumberland Plains woodlands. It is home to many birds and other flora which make it a vital part of our environmental infrastructure. On Tuesday this piece of land was put up for auction but failed to sell. This would be in part due to the hard work of community activists like Martin Ashton and the Blacktown City Council who have been putting pressure on the Minister for Planning, Rob Stokes, to reconsider the rezoning.

In fact, this failed sale could give the Minister a chance to respond to my correspondence regarding the issue or the written question I lodged. Just in case the Minister has not had a chance to read my letter yet, let me summarise it: It would appear the long-term planning for education facilities is being compromised for a quick buck from the sale of this land to developers—does the Minister not think that is a bad idea? I asked him to respond and postpone the sale of land until sufficient advice is given. It is also worth noting that, when the member for Pittwater was environment Minister, he acknowledged the environmental value of the site, but as planning Minister he has now ticked off on the rezoning. The Blacktown mayor and Doonside residents have gone to great lengths to put this issue on the Government's radar, including doorstopping the Premier and Minister Stokes, but still there has been no response. The community campaign has been putting the pressure on, with Blacktown City Mayor, Steven Bali, doing a great job on this issue.

It needs to be noted that the Blacktown area is doing its fair share when it comes to development and providing more housing supply, with forecasters predicting an increase in dwellings of 2,041 per annum into the future and the Blacktown local government area consistently having one of the highest number of dwelling approvals in the State. We have to be for smart development, planned development and developments that bring the community with them. We also need to ensure that with increasing population density we maintain both environmental land and opportunities for more educational facilities.

At the moment this piece of land is an environmental location and in the longer term it was zoned for a school. The area has an ever-increasing population and there is more and more development making it critical that this piece of land stays in government ownership and is not sold to developers. There is ample opportunity in the Blacktown local government area for housing development and that development is going gangbusters. But with an increasing population we need to make sure that we do not have the same problems as are now being experienced in the inner city, where there is insufficient open space and, more importantly, insufficient space to provide educational facilities for families in those areas.

**Mr ROB STOKES** (Pittwater—Minister for Planning) [5.32 p.m.]: I commend the member for Blacktown for his strong advocacy on behalf of his community. I would like to correct a couple of points the member made. The first is that I have not ticked off on any rezoning of the site in my role as Minister for Planning. I understand that recently the Blacktown City Council submitted a planning proposal, which will obviously be considered in line with government policy. I want to make clear that in my role as environment Minister I made a statement about the importance of the Cumberland Plain Woodland that is on the site. I have visited the site and spoken to the mayor and locals in relation to the site. Whatever the ownership of the site, it has clear environmental values and those values must be respected, which will have an impact on the development potential of the site. It would be my clear expectation, as well as that of the council, that those environmental values will be respected.

### MACARTHUR BMX CLUB

**Mr CHRIS PATTERSON** (Camden) [5.33 p.m.]: The Macarthur BMX Club was formed in early 1998 by a group of enthusiastic parents who were keen to bring the sport of BMX racing to the Macarthur region. With no facility, no track and no funds the initial idea was starting to look like a pipedream, but with a lot of tenacity and resolve the parents began to seek out support for their idea. Camden Council came on board and a location at Kirkham Park was found, and so began the formation of the track with the assistance of local businesses. After 3½ years of very hard work the track was opened in 2001. The club has grown to the point where its current location is almost too small, but it still managed to be awarded the opportunity to hold the 2014 New South Wales State Championships in Camden. The event was successful attracting hundreds of competitors and their families to Camden.

BMX began in the early 1970s when children began racing their bicycles on dirt tracks in southern California, inspired by the motocross stars of the time. By the mid-seventies BMX was well and truly considered a sport. In April 1981, the International BMX Federation was founded with the first world championships being held in 1982. In 2008, BMX became a full medal Olympic sport. On many occasions BMX riders go on to other cycling sports. BMX Australia is recognised by the Australian Sports Commission as the National sporting organisation for BMX racing and freestyle BMX within Australia. BMX Australia is also an affiliate of Union Cyclist Internationale, the international cycling federation, and Australia is the second-largest BMX nation behind the United States.

Recently, over 110 Macarthur BMX Club members participated in the 2015 New South Wales State Titles. With only 660 competitors in the competition, Macarthur BMX Club's representation is exceptional. Competitors' ages range from five to 65 with boys, girls, men and women competing, which is an indication of the diversity of BMX riders. The results for the club were outstanding. The eight-year-old boys event was won by Ashton Pace and Bailey Seckold came eighth. Gracie Kate-Davis came seventh in eight-year-old girls and seventh in the 8-10 cruiser events. Mackenzie Hadley came second in the nine-year-old girls race.

Hayden Goulder came second in the 10-year-old boys event, with Bryce Fretwell third. Emily Edwards came sixth in the 10-year-old girls race. Taya Pace came first in the 11-year-old girls event, with April McGuinness third. Jye Furner came second in the 12-year-old boys race and fourth in the 11 to 12-year-old boys cruiser. He also made the New South Wales Dynamites team for the third consecutive year. Zac Davis came eighth in the 11- to 12-year-old boys cruiser. Latanna Markovski came fifth in the 13-year-old girls, Blake Pace came eighth in the 14-year-old boys event and Bailey Gerhard came seventh in the 15 to 16-year-old boys cruiser. Jessica McCormack came second in the 16-year-old girls and sixth in the 14+ pro women's event.

Louise Winton came fourth in the 15 to 16-year-old girls cruiser, with Cara Wilde fifth. Ashlee Osborne came sixth in the 16-year-old girls event. Joshua Wilde came eighth in the 17 to 24-year-old men cruiser with Daniel Leahy seventh in the 17 to 24-year-old men and third in the 17 to 24-year-old men cruiser. Kiel Dellow came fourth in the 25 to 29-year-old men and Keeley Shearing came fifth in the 30 to 34-year old women events. James Green came fifth in the 35 to 39-year-old men cruiser with Duncan Nicholson eighth.