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Will Kate Jones flunk the green test again?

Climate Change and Sustainability Minister Kate Jones needs to prove her environmental credentials extend beyond press releases and save the centuries old Crow Ash Tree under threat by the Airport Link construction.

LNP spokesman for Climate Change and Sustainability Glen Elmes said the historic tree at Lutwyche is currently covered by a Brisbane City Council vegetation protection order, but the designation of the Airport Link as a project of “state significance” allowed the Bligh Labor Government to bulldoze the order.

“This is a test for Kate Jones to see if her environmental credentials are more than just window-dressing,” Mr Elmes said.

“Despite the Minister’s promise to freeze land clearing, she relented and koala habitat at Thornlands was bulldozed when a project of ‘state-significance’ came along.”

Mr Elmes supported the call from Brisbane Lord Mayor Campbell Newman to protect this important landmark.

“Planning Minister Hinchliffe claims the design can’t be altered to save a tree, but residents have already seen this Labor Government bend over backwards altering plans to allow Brisconnections to build new tunnel shafts to achieve their delivery date bonuses.

“It’s time Minister Jones stood up to their Labor mates at Brisconnections and demanded that this important environmental landmark was protected.

“Another failure from Jones in this instance will prove beyond doubt she doesn’t have the guts to take up the fight to protect Queensland’s environment,” Mr Elmes said.

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