



Speech by

STEVEN RODGERS

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

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COMMUNITY CABINET MEETING, BURDEKIN ELECTORATE

Mr RODGERS (Burdekin—ALP) (6.56 p.m.): I rise to speak on a recent visit by the community cabinet—on 15 and 16 July—to the Burdekin electorate.

A government member interjected.

Mr RODGERS: They were all there. It was a pleasure to host this community cabinet meeting in the Burdekin. It is something that the Burdekin branch of the party, the mayor and council and I had been after for a number of months. It was great to see them making time available to visit the Burdekin.

The community cabinet meeting was held on the Sunday at the memorial hall, which is in Home Hill. The forum was opened by the Premier, who introduced the Ayr State High School orchestra and Megan Harris, who sang *Advance Australia Fair*. The Premier and all present agreed it was a superb performance.

Different community groups and people throughout the community who had expressed concerns to me during the time that I have been the member came forward and expressed their concerns to the relevant ministers at that function. It proved worth while for all those who attended and the reports back from those people and others in the community were that it was a truly worthwhile visit and that they believed these community cabinet meetings should continue. I hope that I will be able to get another one in a few years' time.

Organisations in the area also had visits from the relevant ministers for their departments—for example, schools in the area and emergency services—and even a few of the hotels had visits from a few of the members on the Sunday night.

Mrs Miller: And the Burdekin Special School.

Mr RODGERS: And the Burdekin Special School. We also visited local law firms. The Minister for Innovation and Information Technology, Paul Lucas, attended and launched the IT program for One Stop Legal Advice. We also had the launch of the joint Home Hill facility for fire and ambulance services, which was opened by the Minister for Emergency Services, Mike Reynolds, which I attended. The people in the community are very happy with that facility. It has been long awaited and much needed in the community.

On the Monday we also had the official cabinet meeting at the council chambers in Ayr, which was hosted by the Mayor, John Woods, and the local council, which was a very good function. I am reminded that on the Sunday night there were three birthdays. The Minister for Education, Anna Bligh, had hers on the Saturday night; Terry Mackenroth's was on the Monday; and Lindy Nelson-Carr's was on the Sunday night. Sunday night was a party night in the Burdekin.

Mr Reeves interjected.

Mr RODGERS: The party carried on fairly well into the Sunday night.
