



Speech by

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MALENY

Ms MALE (Glass House—ALP) (12.54 a.m.): Tonight I rise to talk about some of the great things happening in Maleny. Earlier this week I spoke about the issues that the Maleny community is struggling with, one of those being how to retain Maleny's rolling green hills, dairy farms, rainforest and village atmosphere—the very reasons people choose to live in and visit Maleny. I do want to make the point that a golf course could be a great way to provide leisure opportunities and retain the lush greenness of the Maleny hills, but cheek by jowl housing without environmentally sustainable planning around water, sewerage, electricity and lifestyle is not a good way forward. Maleny's rural lifestyle is reflected in two of the big events held recently.

Last weekend was the Maleny Show, the ultimate rural showcase of livestock, fruit, vegetables, dairy products, handcrafts, machinery and other associated industries. It is also an excellent opportunity for community groups to support the show—for example, Rotary running one of the food stalls; the Maleny RSL coffee tent, which makes great coffee; the junior Rugby Union food stall; the SES; the Rural Fire Brigade; and so many other groups that were involved. Friday was very successful. The opening and grand parade went well and was very well attended. Saturday was, unfortunately, a rather damp affair, so we missed out on the excellent horse displays and ring events. While that was disappointing, I am looking forward to seeing them next year when it will not rain. Congratulations go to Ivan and Kaye Hankinson, Monica Skerman, Gerry Cole, the stewards and all of the volunteers. It is an enormous effort as the show takes a whole year to plan. It always runs brilliantly.

Maleny's From Chainsaw to Fine Furniture Wood Expo is another showpiece run by Barung Landcare. The expo highlights landcare initiatives and issues and explores sustainable land practices, farm forestry, on-site milling, wood turning and other wood associated practices. Mim Coulstock, Elaine Green, Lin Fairlie and so many others—again, there are too many to name individually—all did a fantastic job. Every volunteer plays an important part. This is a prime ecotourism event, recognised nationally for its uniqueness, which draws thousands of people to Maleny over the Labour Day long weekend. It is Barung's major fundraising event for the year which helps to sustain its vital landcare education programs. I encourage local residents to get involved with either of these two events—events which contribute so much to the community.

There is much to celebrate in Maleny, and at the end of the day I love to see the community taking notice of each other's differences of opinion and focus but still working together for the good of the town. Maleny will continue to grow and develop. I hope that it always remembers its roots, that it tries to get a balance between development and wide open spaces and that the environment is not the end sufferer. During the show Bill Hankinson was telling me about the changes that he has seen over his life in Maleny. He reminded me that not all change is bad and that many people like to see Maleny move forward. I believe that we need to consider change, embrace the good, stop the bad and try to live with all of our neighbours in harmony.