



Speech by

**Andrew Powell**

**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

Hansard Wednesday, 3 June 2009

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## **GLASS HOUSE ELECTORATE**

**Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (9.19 pm): It has been a busy week in Glass House. For starters, the 1,500-strong community of Peachester was thrown into disarray last Wednesday with the full closure of Peachester Road after a landslide. The road is the community's lifeline, linking it to schools, retail businesses, public transport and emergency services in Beerwah. Unfortunately, inconsistent advice from the Department of Main Roads was circulated within the community suggesting that this closure would persist for a minimum of three months. Sensing the frustration in the community and working with Sunshine Coast regional councillor Anna Grosskreutz, I asked Main Roads to participate in a community meeting last Thursday night.

Some 250 locals packed the Peachester Hall to hear firsthand the prognosis on the road repairs. Word was able to circulate throughout the community that the repairs were likely to take three weeks and that alternative arrangements had been made for school bus services, local and tourist traffic, and emergency services. I thank Dennis Tennant and Don Pitt from Main Roads and councillors Anna and Craig Young from the regional council for their participation in the meeting. I am pleased to inform the House that, largely through the round-the-clock work by Main Roads, Peachester Road will reopen to emergency services today and that the community will be once again using this vital link as soon as Friday—two weeks ahead of schedule. Once again, I thank all involved for their tireless efforts, especially the Peachester community for their patience in what has clearly been a major disruption to their daily activities.

Moving on to more pleasant events, I had the pleasure of attending the Governor's official opening of the Maleny Show last Friday. I commend the Governor for persisting with her address despite the unexpected downpour. I know the Maleny community appreciated her words and presence. I also want to thank Ivan Hankinson and the members of Maleny Show Society for a fantastic show. Other than that downpour, it was great to see the sun and so many locals enjoying one of Queensland's best shows. To Show Princesses—Jessica and Laura, Hayley and Felicity—and Rural Ambassador, Carl, my sincerest congratulations. May you continue to inspire others of your generation in their increased involvement in all things agricultural.

It does not stop there. On Friday night I was delighted to speak at the annual strawberry growers dinner. As I said yesterday, some 70 per cent of all of Queensland's strawberries are grown in my electorate. It was a real honour to be able to join with development officer Lourens Grobler and growers like Luigi Coco, the Twist brothers, Bill Sharpe and Ray Daniels in celebrating the industry's success and considering its future, and I wear their tie with pride. Given the industry is such an intrinsic part of the interurban green corridor between Caboolture and the Sunshine Coast, I am committed to assisting growers in overcoming any impediments that may prevent them from flourishing.

Finally, rain was not going to deter Palmwoods locals a second time from enjoying the annual state school fair. It was a fantastic afternoon and evening. Congratulations to Raina Carvell and the P&C for yet another successful carnival. I had a lot of fun assisting Malcolm Brown from the rural fire brigade and Blazer, their koala mascot, during the auction and my children, like many others, thrilled to the fireworks. Thank you to all who dug deep in support of the school. It is very much the heart of our community, and it is great to see locals getting involved and having fun.