



Speech by

Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Hansard Wednesday, 19 August 2009

D'AGUILAR HIGHWAY

Mr POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (11.56 am): This morning I tabled a petition from 1,423 concerned community members regarding the state of the D'Aguilar Highway. The D'Aguilar Highway is the main thoroughfare connecting the Bruce Highway at Caboolture with the South Burnett. In my electorate it services the communities of Wamuran, D'Aguilar and Woodford, then on to Kilcoy in the seat of Nanango. Each of those communities has been targeted for expansion under the recently revised South East Queensland Regional Plan, and not surprisingly. The communities offer the best of both worlds: peaceful rural living in close proximity to health, education and employment opportunities in the key growth areas of the Moreton Bay Regional Council.

The problem is that the growth in population that has occurred and will occur, not to mention commuters from the South Burnett and tourists, means that more and more Queenslanders are relying on the D'Aguilar Highway as their main route to schools, shops, hospitals and work. Locals will tell you that this growth is visible for all to see in the increased traffic. Unfortunately, it is also evident in the increasing number of accidents and deaths occurring on the highway, particularly between Wamuran and Woodford. I put a question on notice to the Minister for Main Roads. His response indicates that there were 47 serious accidents on that stretch from July 2006 to October 2008, including seven fatalities. Unfortunately those statistics do not include those who have died on the highway since, including the tragic death of a young woman from Kilcoy in May of this year.

The highway is a state controlled road and, as the state representative for the area, I give my commitment that I will leave no stone unturned in improving the safety of this highway. On that note, I would like to thank the Minister for Main Roads for agreeing to meet next week with me, the federal member for Longman, Jon Sullivan, and the federal member for Fisher, the Hon. Peter Slipper. Together, we three from across the political divide are presenting the case for more funding for the highway, demonstrating that sometimes it is better to put aside party allegiances to achieve a much needed outcome for the community.

I would also like to acknowledge the D'Aguilar Highway Kills Fix it Now community group, which has been instrumental in gathering the petitions. It is also organising a community rally to be held in Woodford on 12 September. The rally is an opportunity for community members to gather, remember those who have lost their lives and add their voice to the call for a safer highway.

(Time expired)