



Speech by

Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Hansard Wednesday, 16 September 2009

ROAD SAFETY

Mr POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (9.15 pm): Madam Deputy Speaker, 2009 has been a hard year for many in my electorate. There have simply been too many tragedies on our roads. For many, these tragedies served as a call to action on Saturday, 12 September. In the north of the electorate, my home town of Palmwoods was draped in pink and purple as locals remembered the lives of Grace and Jessica Hornby. Grace and Jessica would have been six on Saturday but for the fact their lives were cut horribly short when they died in a car accident on 8 May this year at Woombye. The twins' parents invited the coast to share in remembering their lives by decorating the community with pink and purple, the twins' favourite colours. The colourful display would hopefully serve as a constant reminder to take care and be aware when on the roads.

Brooke Trappett, a student from Palmwoods State School—the twins' school—summed up the community's sentiment perfectly when she said, 'Hopefully people can learn to slow down and not speed.' I echoed that plea when addressing members of the broader Palmwoods community at the Palmwoods Progress Association last Thursday night. Residents are concerned that the dipping and twisting main road that runs through the township can no longer handle the increase in traffic, and I agree. The road is increasingly unsafe, particularly for elderly residents trying to access the local supermarket. But the reality is that, short of a few quick fixes, the real solution will only be achieved when the rail duplication occurs allowing Main Roads to realign and redesign this crucial thoroughfare. So, in the meantime, I echo Brooke's words of 'learn to slow down' and be alert of those around you.

Saturday also saw the D'Aguilar Kills: Fix it Now community rally in Woodford. For all who attended, like me, the rally was a gut-wrenching event. Immediate family members and friends of those who have died on the D'Aguilar Highway arrived in black, in memory of those they have lost. On 19 May this year, 19-year-old Kilcoy resident Stephanie McPherson was killed when the car she was travelling in lost control in terribly wet weather, hitting a tree at Bracalba. Stephanie's friends and aunt addressed the rally and called on the government, me included, to take action immediately to ensure this tragedy is not repeated.

I want to assure the McPhersons and all families that use the D'Aguilar Highway that I am doing all I can to ensure that action is taken. Along with federal members Peter Slipper and Jon Sullivan, I have met with the Minister for Main Roads, Craig Wallace; with the federal minister for infrastructure, Anthony Albanese; and with the Mayor of the Moreton Bay Regional Council, Allan Sutherland. I am leaving no stone unturned in lobbying for urgent funding.

I again met with Minister Wallace earlier today and would like to personally thank him for his cooperation and consideration of this matter. I presented to the minister questions raised by community members at the rally and I look forward to his response and, hopefully, announcements of funding in the very near future. In the meantime, to all Queenslanders, please keep safe on our roads.