



Speech by

## Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Hansard Tuesday, 18 May 2010

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### WOODFORD STATE SCHOOL; MALENY-KENILWORTH ROAD

**Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (10.20 pm): Today I tabled two petitions on behalf of residents of Glass House. Earlier this year on 9 February I asked the Minister for Education what criteria would need to be met to expand the P-10 school at Woodford to include senior years. The minister's response was 1,100 high school age students sustained over a 20-year period. The education department's forward planning, even with the extraordinary growth planned for the town and surrounds, suggests that the community of Woodford has two chances of such being achieved—Buckley's and none. That is simply not good enough for the people, the parents and the students of Woodford. Those parents, those students and the broader Woodford community want the minister to know what they think of his initial response. That is why more than 1,300 individuals signed the petition requesting the current P-10 school be expanded.

Minister, the community wants this, and I believe they have a very valid argument. Not only will it offer local educational opportunities; it will ensure sustained economic growth in the broader community. Businesses are crying out for senior students to work as casuals. They are also looking for students and their parents to shop locally rather than to do their shopping while attending extracurricular activities in Caboolture and Kilcoy, where the current high schools are.

At this point I would like to acknowledge the hard work of Delaneys Creek local Michelle Hewitt, the principal petitioner. Michelle left no stone unturned in gathering these signatures. She did so because not only does she have children currently commuting to Caboolture but she has little ones yet to enter the education system. She did it for them. Minister, please listen to the voices of Woodford. Scrap your one-size-fits-all approach and reconsider a senior school for Woodford.

The second petition I tabled was from more than 1,900 Kenilworth, Conondale and Maleny locals demanding action on the Maleny-Kenilworth Road. Last Monday, 10 May, I hiked the 34 kilometres of this road in the electorate of Glass House. I started at the northern boundary, Little Yabba Creek, some six kilometres south of Kenilworth. I finished 10 hours later in Maleny.

On the way I was stopped by bus driver Dick Bagshaw and 49 students from Maleny State High School who, through their appointed spokespeople—Maddison, Martin and Julian Watson—presented me with their signed petitions. I stopped at Conondale for brunch with some 40 Conondale and Kenilworth locals—people like Key Braden, Vivienne Bochow, Dave Sands, Ian Fleiter, Mandy Kennedy, Bernie Bristow, Carol Gilmour, Roger Hogg, Allan Franks and Kacey and George Walker—locals fed up with the state of their road. After a hard slog up the range, I stopped at Witta for a coffee and to collect more petitions from concerned residents also fed up with the state of their road.

To the Minister for Main Roads, I know you have spent nearly \$15 million on upgrades for which I and the community are grateful, but all they have done is highlight the deplorable condition of the remaining sections. Minister, I know the planning study is complete. Your department knows what needs to be done—1,900 locals implore you, Minister, to commit the funding in the upcoming budget to finish what you have started.