



Speech by

Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

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ELIMBAH STATE SCHOOL, PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

Mr POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (10.19 pm): I have been staggered and appalled by some ludicrous decisions in my lifetime, but just last week I participated in a meeting that takes the cake. I will give members the background first. On the afternoon of Friday, 28 May a student of Elimbah State School was struck by a vehicle as she used the pedestrian crossing on Beerburrum Road. Year 1 student Grace Giampino was crossing the road with her brother to get to her grandmother, who was parked on the other side. Due to a vehicle protruding from the adjacent School Road, the car travelling north failed to see Grace until it was too late. Grace was hit and thrown some distance, suffering abrasions to her elbow and hip, lacerations to her legs and, on presentation to the Caboolture Hospital accident and emergency department, blood in her urine. The Elimbah community and I are just grateful that Grace suffered no internal damage and that she is alive.

Unfortunately, Grace is not alone. This crossing is notorious for many near misses and at least three pedestrian-vehicle collisions in the past 10 years. That is why the school principal, Mr Gary Austen, and the Elimbah State School P&C Association have been fighting for the past decade to have a crossing supervisor appointed to this dodgy pedestrian crossing. In fact, in February this year the P&C association, through president Sharon Webb, asked me to again make representations to the transport minister. The minister's response gave us some hope but indicated that, despite the crossing being identified as a risk, there was insufficient funding to appoint a crossing supervisor. How much funding are we talking about? Fifteen thousand dollars.

That brings me to the meeting last week. Let me acknowledge and thank the representatives of the Department of Transport and Main Roads who attended that meeting. We all appreciated their speedy response. I also acknowledge that what resulted was not a reflection on the individuals but more on the system in which they operate—a system of siloed, inflexible funding programs and technical based design and reporting. Instead of agreeing to the \$15,000 that was needed for a school crossing supervisor, the representatives put on the table a \$300,000 TIDS solution, which would see additional parking installed on the school side of Beerburrum Road. How farcical! Let us spend \$300,000 to save \$15,000! What is more, this proposed solution would take at least two years to materialise as it requires partnership funding from the local Moreton Bay Regional Council and extensive preplanning.

I understand that the representatives are trying to put a stop to all pedestrian movements across Beerburrum Road but, even if we stopped parents parking across the road, local kids who live on Coronation Street or down Rose Creek Road will continue to cross at this crossing. This is not a solution; it is an abomination. What if the car that had struck Grace had been one of the many semitrailers that use Beerburrum Road? How long is this government prepared to leave the pedestrian crossing as it is? How many more kids need to be hit while crossing Beerburrum Road? How many must die? Must one die? What price a kid's life? In my eyes they are worth far more than \$15,000 and they are worth a decision now.