




Speech by

Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Hansard Thursday, 25 August 2011

NATURAL DISASTERS, MAIN ROADS

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (3.56 pm): It has now been some eight months since the disasters that occurred in early January this year. I am pleased that in many locations that physical damage inflicted by the disasters, both flood and cyclone, have been repaired. I was pleased to hear that Grantham is moving on and that its people are putting their lives back together after the allocation of new blocks on higher ground.

I am frustrated, though, when I see government propaganda such as the Operation Queenslander newsletter that was put out at the Ekka. I note on the back that it states that, as a result of the disasters, some 9,170 kilometres of state roads were damaged and that, as of 1 August, 8,482 kilometres of state roads were repaired. That apparently equates to 92.5 per cent. I readily accept that the road damage that occurred in the Glass House electorate should—and has rightly—waited until far more urgent works are completed. I have been patient and I have constantly called on the constituents of Glass House to do the same. Our inconveniences were far more minor than those caused by disasters to the south, west and north. The patience of me and the people of Glass House is starting to wear thin. As I said, it has been nearly eight months. That 7.5 per cent of roads remaining that are still damaged include the Kilcoy-Beerwah Road at Peachester and the Maleny-Stanley River Road at Boorooben. Both of these roads are still under traffic-light operation because one lane is out of action. Most important, and most appalling, is the Palmwoods-Montville Road at Hunchy.

Recently I received a letter from the department of main roads dated 26 July. It states that the contractors have recently been moved on to other projects until additional design work is finished. This is a road that has been closed since March 2010 and subsequently was redamaged in January 2011 and we are still waiting for the design work. While we are waiting the contractors have been moved off-site. Our people in Palmwoods and Montville have been patient enough; I have been patient enough. Minister, please repair this road and do so quickly.