



Speech by


# Hon. Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Hansard Thursday, 23 August 2012

---

## CAMPBELL, MR C; INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE COOPERATIVES

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection) (2.57 pm): I commence this afternoon by acknowledging the passing of Colin Campbell, OAM, on the Sunshine Coast last night. He was well respected, as everyone has said—particularly the Premier this morning—by the gardening community and the horticultural industry around the state. I know that gardening clubs in my electorate of Glass House, such as the Maleny Garden Club, will particularly be feeling the loss of Col. My heart goes out to his family and to those communities who will be feeling that at the moment.

While talking about Maleny, it is worth while noting that 2012 is the International Year of the Cooperatives. I am not sure if the good Madam Deputy Speaker Cunningham is aware of that, but it has been designated as the International Year of the Cooperatives.

**Mr Crisafulli:** Wow.

**Mr POWELL:** The Minister for Local Government is certainly impressed. It is acknowledged by the international community that cooperatives drive the economy, respond to social change, are resilient to the global economic crisis and are successful businesses creating jobs in all sectors. I am particularly proud that in the electorate of Glass House we have a very strong reputation of cooperatives. It started way back in 1903 with the establishment of the Maleny Cooperative Dairy Association and it has come through into our modern time with the establishment of things like the Maple Street Co-op and the Maleny Credit Union. As someone who banks with the Maleny Credit Union, I am very proud to say that their fine heritage in terms of cooperative work on the Sunshine Coast is revered not only on the coast but across Australia and internationally.

Some of the key drivers, including Jill Jordan, a former resident of Maleny, were instrumental in the establishment of many of those cooperatives and, as a result, spent a lot of time travelling around the world sharing their experience of setting up cooperatives. I acknowledge all the members of the electorate of Glass House who are involved in cooperatives and who are excited about the work they are doing this year to recognise this special year.

In the time remaining I want to refute some of the claims made by the member for Nicklin regarding the Woombye Gardens Caravan Park. I particularly want to refute the fear that the member has generated within the community in that caravan park. After the visit of the member for Nicklin I received a phone call from a resident, Mr Bill Blades, who wanted reassurance on some of the things that he was told. In that call he acknowledged that the residents cannot decide who the owner is. However, he was reassured that we are maintaining the residency—whoever purchases the property must guarantee residency for a period of at least 18 months—and that the park is outside the urban footprint; it cannot be developed. Anyone who is spreading fear or rumour-mongering in that community is misleading those people and creating a fearful environment in which to live.