




Speech By
Hon. Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

ADJOURNMENT

Bruce Highway; Disability Services

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection) (12.21 am): It is with pleasure that I stand this evening to discuss a couple of issues that are very pertinent to the electorate of Glass House. Firstly, yesterday I had the privilege of tabling two petitions—one a paper petition and the other an e-petition—on behalf of the residents of the Sunshine Coast regarding the Bruce Highway. There were some 1,736 signatures on the e-petition and nearly 1,200 on the paper petition. That is nearly 3,000 signatures all up. The petition stated that Sunshine Coast residents and the business community ask—

... the State Government to make the entire Sunshine Coast to Caboolture stretch of the Bruce Highway a priority section for six lanes in lobbying for Federal funding. The petitioners request the House take into consideration the important role the Sunshine Coast plays as a tourist destination for the betterment of the Queensland tourism industry.

It was with particular pleasure that I tabled that petition because not long before I did so the federal coalition made a very significant announcement regarding the Bruce Highway. A significant part of that announcement related to my part of the Bruce Highway north of Caboolture. The federal coalition has announced \$8½ billion worth of funding towards the Bruce Highway. As we just heard from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, that will be 80-20 funding as per the standard rules for the Bruce Highway.

Some \$3.3 billion of that will go to the area north of Pine Rivers and south of Gympie. The Caloundra Road to Sunshine Motorway stage 1 will receive \$200 million in funding. The Caloundra Road to Sunshine Motorway stage 2 planning and design will receive \$50 million. The Caboolture to Caloundra upgrade will receive \$122 million. The Pine Rivers to Caloundra interchange will receive \$8 million. The Caloundra Road to Sunshine Motorway stage 1 final construction will receive \$141 million. The Caboolture to Sunshine Motorway stage 2 will receive \$743 million. The Maroochydore Road interchange upgrade stage 1 will receive \$187 million. The Gateway Motorway to Caboolture upgrade will receive \$105 million. I commend the federal coalition on this. This is what a grown-up government in Canberra will deliver for the people of Queensland. This is what a grown-up government will deliver for the people of the Sunshine Coast and for the Bruce Highway.

In the time remaining I want to touch on a very pleasant visit I had with the Minister for Disability Services to Lavally Lodge. It is a wonderful service provider in the Glasshouse Mountains area. It was poignant that not too long after that I bumped into a constituent Candice Stingel who mentioned to me the importance of the NDIS and our signing up to it. Unfortunately, Candice has two children who have fragile X syndrome. It was with pride that I wore a special orange ribbon on Monday, 22 July in recognition of the fragile X syndrome, the most common inherited cause of intellectual disability and cognitive impairment worldwide. I commend her as a mother. I look forward to working with her and others who are in this situation to ensure that we can continue to provide the best of disability services.

(Time expired)