



Speech By
Hon. Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

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ADJOURNMENT

Wamuran Men's Shed; Glass House Electorate, Roads

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection) (9.31 pm): It is with great pleasure that I rise this evening to talk about what was probably one of the biggest events in the electorate of Glass House this year. Unfortunately I was in Bundaberg at community cabinet at the time His Excellency the Governor-General arrived at Wamuran to officially open the Wamuran Men's Shed. Many members in this House would know the fantastic work that Men's Sheds do around the state bringing together gentlemen, and often women as well. I think there is a bit of woodworking that goes on, but I think what actually goes on is a lot of talking, coffees and cakes, and the occasional alcoholic beverage as well. It was a significant event for the Wamuran Men's Shed. I acknowledge the committee: president John Vayne; vice-presidents Bevin Peters and Doug Greening; treasurer Neville Parsons; and secretary Wayne Rye. I also acknowledge their chaplain, Albert Fairweather, who I understand gave a prayer at the opening when the Hon. Peter Cosgrove arrived.

I also want to acknowledge Dr David Easton who has been a GP in Wamuran for 25 to 30 years who also spoke at the official opening. He was one of the people who instigated the shed by setting up a steering committee after he recognised the need for men to have something to do, particularly when they retire, and be able to get support from other like-minded members of the community. Thank you very much to David for his foresight in pulling together that steering committee. The shed in the heart of Wamuran, with its solar panels on its roof producing plenty of energy, brings together a lot of guys around woodworking, providing camaraderie and a fantastic outcome.

In the time remaining I would like to address a number of road issues in the electorate. Several weeks ago I again did the 35-kilometre walk from Little Yabba Creek all the way into Maleny on the Maleny-Kenilworth Road. It was great to see our brand new concrete Grigor Bridge at Conondale. I thank Minister Emerson for doing what the previous government could not do. I also thank him for finally fixing the potholes and the landslides along the Maleny-Kenilworth Road.

There is, however, the outstanding matter of the goat track just north of Conondale. This 2½-kilometre stretch north of Lees Road does need widening. This is a prime tourist route, not to mention a residential route, between Conondale and Kenilworth and it needs fixing. I again stress the community's desire to see traffic signalisation at the corner of Reed Street and Steve Irwin Way in Glass House Mountains. We do not have significant accidents there because people know how bad it is, but we do get a lot of vehicles running up the rear of the vehicle in front and it is driving people to despair. I am working with Minister Emerson and will continue to work with him to bring about a solution for the Glass House Mountains community.