




Speech By
Hon. Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 29 October 2014

MOTION

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection) (6.21 pm): Eighty thousand Queenslanders participated in the preparation of the Queensland Plan, and to each and every one of them tonight I say thank you. I would also like to make it clear to those 80,000 people that their plan, their aspirations, their vision for the next 30 years, their dreams, have not been supported by the opposition, nor by many of the crossbenchers.

This is truly the people's plan. It is Queensland's plan. It is not any party's plan. It is not the LNP's plan and it is certainly not Labor's plan, because any plan from those opposite would be an absolute first.

Mr Cripps: No, no—we had one last night. Remember that last night we had one—their first policy.

Mr POWELL: I take that back. I take the interjection from the member for Hinchinbrook.

A government member interjected.

Mr POWELL: We did have a plan from those opposite last night and that was to let people continue to trash the Great Barrier Reef—something that this government has stood up to and put a stop to.

The member for Gaven said, 'If this is the best the Queensland people have to offer then it is not good enough'—really, how arrogant, how insulting to the more than 80,000 people who contributed to the plan. They created the plan. They determined the questions. They gave their time and energy, their efforts and their intelligence to a plan described by many as one of the world's best, and that is not good enough for the member for Gaven? The arrogance of the member is astounding as is the response from the Leader of the Opposition, not to mention the member for Bundamba. I must admit that I am completely and utterly gob-smacked. I am amazed and appalled by the opposition's response to the plan for Queenslanders. Up until a fortnight ago Queenslanders were of the belief this was a bipartisan approach—the process certainly was—and it was acknowledged by Mount Isa Mayor, Tony McGrady, a man who served in this chamber under the Labor Party. He understood the value of this plan and has agreed to be a Queensland Plan ambassador because he understands what this 30-year vision for the state means. The mayor said, 'This is neither an ALP plan, nor an LNP, a PUP or a Katter party plan. This is a plan for Queensland and one that could have great outcomes.' Why then, I ask, can't those opposite see that for themselves? How difficult is it to understand this is not the government's plan. This is not a means to another end. It is about putting in place what Queenslanders want for the short-term, the medium-term and the long-term good of this great state. Perhaps this is something the opposition does not understand because it never did. It never thought beyond an electoral cycle—it never thought beyond a potential vote winner—and look how well that worked out for it at the last election.

May I remind the opposition that sometimes a government has a responsibility—in fact I would say a government always has a responsibility—to not only the people voting now but to those who will live, work and, yes, vote in the future, a responsibility to the mums and dads of Queensland who want their children to grow up with the best possible opportunities. This government recognises the value of planning but, even more importantly, it recognises the value of listening, listening to the people of Queensland, listening to each and every one of the 80,000 Queenslanders who wanted their voices heard.

At a time when a true bipartisan approach would leave a legacy beyond my role, beyond our role, in this parliament, the best the opposition leader, the opposition and many of the crossbenchers could do is thumb their nose at Queenslanders. Certainly the Leader of the Opposition has thumbed her nose at the 80,000 Queenslanders who contributed to the Queensland Plan. I will ask again: what has the Leader of the Opposition got against Queenslanders? It is their plan, made from their contributions. Why has she thumbed her nose at it?

I guess it comes as no surprise that the Leader of the Opposition does not support the government's response to the plan, but the Leader of the Opposition can and should support the voices of Queenslanders who contributed to the plan. The process and the outcome of the Queensland Plan has been endorsed and hailed as a success by many individuals and many groups including the Queensland Council of Social Services and the Queensland Conservation Council. The Queensland Plan has been recognised internationally by experts who conduct community engagement throughout the world, and we collectively should be proud of what has been delivered by the people of Queensland.

It comes as no surprise the opposition wants to talk down the efforts of Queenslanders, the efforts of QCOSS, of the QCC, of Bravehearts, of the LGAQ, of the Queensland Teachers Union and of our many universities throughout the state. It comes as no surprise the Leader of the Opposition wants to talk down the efforts of the fine folks in my electorate of Glass House and, indeed, the fine folks of her own electorate of Inala who participated in the process and those who have taken the time to read the Queensland Plan—people who come up to me every day and congratulate the government and, up until two weeks ago, the opposition on a bipartisan approach for an initiative and an outcome. They are blown away by the quality of the document itself, of the plan itself, and the commentary that has come through the document from the many people who had input into it.

This is the beauty, the real worth of the Queensland Plan. The voices of Queenslanders have been heard. They have been documented and they will be acted upon, at least by this government. That, Mr Deputy Speaker, is what good government is about. I commend the motion to the House.