




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 2 June 2015

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Great Barrier Reef

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (10.27 am): Last Friday night we saw yet another decisive triumph for common sense when it comes to the protection and management of the Great Barrier Reef—a triumph of common sense over fraud; a longstanding campaign of fraud levelled against the people of Queensland and the Great Barrier Reef. I take a moment to congratulate federal environment minister, Greg Hunt, who stood up and took seriously this threat to the Great Barrier Reef and the threat to this state's reputation. He worked in partnership to come up with sensible policy and legislative amendments and solutions that we could put in place. He stood up to the fraudsters like Greenpeace and WWF once and for all.

I congratulate Julie Bishop, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and her ambassadors George Mina, who worked with the World Heritage Committee, and Peter Woolcott, the Ambassador for the Environment. I congratulate Tony Roberts from the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection and his team for all the work they did.

On the Friday we saw praise for the efforts of the former LNP government. I congratulate former premier Campbell Newman for his foresight to restore honesty and openness when it comes to the management of the Gladstone harbour. The people of Gladstone worked with us to restore openness and transparency when it comes to the management of the Gladstone harbour.

I congratulate the member for Buderim for his management of the national parks along the Great Barrier Reef, for the investment towards the control of the crown-of-thorns starfish and for his work alongside me and BHP on Raine Island. I congratulate the member for Callide for his efforts around throwing out the previous Labor government's mishmash of railway lines and ports up and down the length and breadth of the Queensland coast. He consolidated the ports into four key ports along the Queensland coast adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef. We are likely to see legislation re-introduced into this House that copies the legislation that the member for Callide introduced into this House.

I thank the industry and the conservation groups who worked with us on producing Reef 2050, a product that was all but done for the election and was released shortly afterwards. What was Labor's contribution to the Great Barrier Reef? Well, let us remember. They are the mugs that put us under the attention of UNESCO in the first place by building three LNG plants in the World Heritage area. What LNG plants? Those three big LNG plants on Curtis Island. If those opposite want to play politics with the reef, they better get some runs on the board because at the moment Guy Sebastian's Eurovision diplomacy has done more to prevent the endanger listing of the reef than they have. If you want to take credit for saving the reef, Minister, you have to do more than just put it in your ministerial title.