




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

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ADJOURNMENT

Member for Pumicestone

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (11.03 pm): This evening I will start by referring to a number of headlines and media articles over the last couple of months. In a regional weekly newspaper on 5 June there was the headline 'MP denies allegations' and the article stated, 'Serious allegations against another first time Labor MP have again jeopardised the Palaszczuk government's precarious hold on power'. On 10 June in the *Courier-Mail* there was the headline "'I'll sack him if he has lied": Premier stands by her man, for now' and the article stated, 'Rogue MP will be sacked from the Labor Party if he has been dishonest, Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk said.' 'New MP under fire' was the headline in another regional newspaper on 10 June 2015 and the article stated, 'A Labor MP under police investigation has been stood down from the Queensland government's Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.' In the *Courier-Mail* on 29 June there was the headline 'MP faces intense police scrutiny' and the article stated, 'Police are probing an MP's alleged activities before his election to the state parliament this year.' 'MP has to go' was the headline in the *Courier-Mail* on 10 August.

Members would be mistaken for thinking I was referring to the member for Cook. Well, I am not. Amidst all the focus on the member for Cook and his dishonourable behaviour, let us not forget that there is another new member of parliament who is an embarrassment to his electorate. I am of course referring to the member for Pumicestone, Rick Williams. I say again that his electorate view him as an embarrassment. His electorate are furious at Annastacia Palaszczuk and the ALP for foisting him upon them. His electorate want him gone and want him gone now.

The LNP recently had a shadow cabinet meeting in the electorate of Pumicestone—on Bribie Island and at Sandstone Point. One thing all shadow ministers reported was the number of Pumicestone constituents who came up to them expressing their disappointment, their frustration, their loathing, their embarrassment and their anger over their current member. They are not alone.

There are two types of community organisations in the electorate of Pumicestone. There are those who refuse to invite the member for Pumicestone to their events and there are those who invite him and wish they had not. Even his colleagues, especially the members for Morayfield and Murrumba, are sick and tired of covering up for him. Ministers simply will not let him deputise for them.

In any other industry, in any company, like the member for Cook, the member for Pumicestone would be out on his ear looking for another job. There are members in this House on both sides of this chamber who work incredibly hard for their electorate and for the state of Queensland. The member for Pumicestone, like the member for Cook, does not. He is only interested in himself and the people of Pumicestone have had enough.