




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 29 October 2015

ADJOURNMENT

D'Aguilar Highway, Upgrade

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (6.58 pm): Last Friday was a fantastic day for the people of Glass House, particularly those in the south of the electorate, as the federal member for Longman, Wyatt Roy, and I turned the sod on \$16 million worth of upgrades to the D'Aguilar Highway between Wamuran and Woodford. This has been the culmination of seven long years of campaigning, first as a candidate and then as the member for Glass House. The D'Aguilar Highway is the lifeblood of these communities. It is what every person relies on to get their kids to school, to do the shopping, to get to work. It has been in desperate need of an upgrade, even more so since the floods that occurred in 2010, 2011 and 2013.

Thanks to Wyatt, we got a full federal contribution of \$16 million. Through TMR thinking innovatively during our term in government, we have been able to stretch that to not only rehabilitate the road but add an overtaking lane eastbound between the two Gamgee Road intersections. There is also going to be full signage upgrade, an intersection upgrade at Canando Street west of Woodford and enough money to do the design work for an additional overtaking lane heading east out of Woodford towards Ironbark Drive. This road project is long overdue and there is excitement throughout the community. My only request is that, as people will be driving through the roadworks for the next 12 months, they slow down, take their time and get to their destination safely and that they keep an eye out for those people working on that road project as well.

There are a number of things that can still be done to improve the D'Aguilar Highway. Earlier this week I tabled a petition on behalf of Woodford resident Mr Brenton Kelly, who is fighting to have a 60-kilometre sign shifted 300 metres further west out of the Woodford township. Why? Mr Kelly and several hundred Woodford residents live off Mary Street, and currently they have to take that intersection at 100 kilometres an hour. There is an undertaking lane, but unfortunately tourists are often parked there with their grey nomad outfit and that creates an issue. There is also an overtaking line as you are heading west. So often people turning left out of Mary Street on to the D'Aguilar Highway are confronted by traffic coming at them from both lanes in a westbound direction. There is a very, very simple solution—simply taking a 60-kilometre sign 300 metres down the road. It is not going to cost \$16 million. I hope for the sake of Mr Kelly and his late wife, who started this campaign some three or four years ago, that we are not going to have to wait seven years to see that. I do ask the Minister for Main Roads to seriously consider Mr Kelly's petition and assist us in moving that speed sign 300 metres down the road.