



Speech By  
**Andrew Powell**


**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

---

Record of Proceedings, 3 December 2015

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Zipline Australia**

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (2.58 pm): This morning the Deputy Premier used the phrase that a clear line in this parliament has been drawn 'between those who stand for prosperity and those willing to pursue expediency; between those who believe we should be open for business and those who would slam our doors shut; between those who want to take Queensland forward and those who would take us back'. It sure has, but it started back on 31 January, not last night.

I recently met with Zipline Australia, who have been told by this government that their project at the Obi Obi Gorge will no longer proceed. The company had tried to correspond with the relevant ministers for months. After several months of unanswered phone calls and follow-ups, they finally got a meeting in June this year. All the information necessary for that meeting—briefing documentation—was provided to the department of tourism as the lead agency in advance. In that meeting the proponents were advised that canopy tours were not deemed a suitable on-park activity and that specifically steel poles and permanent infrastructure used in the canopy tour would not be approved. They were also advised in the meeting by both ministers that they were supportive of commercial nature based ecotourism in national parks as long as it was the 'right kind of activity'.

Given that Zipline Australia accepted and signed documents as the exclusive proponent in the second stage of the tender process to produce a final detailed proposal and that they had been working through all that with the department of tourism, they were incredibly disappointed to be called into a ministerial meeting where the project was being cancelled and no-one had bothered to read the documents provided. The documentation clearly stated that there was no permanent infrastructure in the national park; that the canopy tour entered the national park in the air, traversed through the national park in the air and exited the national park in the air, and at no point would anyone set foot on the ground; and that the total contact area with the national park was less than a single square metre per tree. All infrastructure used in the national park could be stripped out and removed at any point.

In addition, Zipline Australia identified one of the key requirements in the matrix that the department sought to tackle early on which was the requirement for them to negotiate an ILUA with the Jinibara people as the identified traditional owners. Six months prior to the ministerial meeting they had negotiated that ILUA. They had agreed on the terms. These terms included a percentage of the turnover as a commercial return to the Jinibara people, 50 per cent of the gift shop space and ticketing facility to be located in Montville for Jinibara to sell their own Indigenous artefacts, funding and physical support to construct a cultural heritage tour, and first dibs on any employment opportunities that came through Zipline Australia.

As a small business one has to wonder why anyone would bother in this state when even the ministers could not take the time to read the briefing materials that they had been provided. The government wants us to believe that they are open for business. I can tell the House that Zipline Australia know that Kate Jones and Steven Miles certainly do not believe so.