



Speech By  
**Andrew Powell**


**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**Sunshine Coast, Infrastructure; Art on Cairncross, Exhibition**

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (12.04 am): It was with much pleasure that in the first week of August I and my Sunshine Coast MP colleagues welcomed Tim Nicholls and Deb Frecklington, the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, to the coast to show them firsthand priority projects around our great region. The tour started in the north of the coast at Noosa where the member for Noosa, Glen Elmes, showed us Beckmans Road and the importance of vital infrastructure upgrades in that part of the world. We then continued on to the Sunshine Coast Airport and looked at the possible expansion plans that the council has put forward—plans that can only materialise because of action taken by the LNP when in government, including gifting land, and I acknowledge the then deputy premier who assisted in gifting land to the council free of charge. Rather, he made sure that it got the land free of charge so that the expansion could go forward. On that note, I welcome the decision by the Leader of the Opposition to give the council an assurance that we would act as guarantor should we form government at the next election to its concessional loan from the federal government to make that expansion possible.

We then continued on to look at the Mooloolah River interchange and the diabolical mess that will be created once the Sunshine Coast University Hospital opens in terms of traffic in and around the hospital. I am sorry, but the \$22 million touted by the Labor government is not going to go anywhere near fixing that. We really do need to look at the full Mooloolah River interchange and sort that mess of roads and traffic out. At the university hospital we had an opportunity to tour the hospital and see firsthand how it is progressing—a hospital that is only possible because of the funding that was brought forward by the LNP when in government. Unfortunately under Labor we have seen delays and delays and delays and it is not going to be open when it was foreshadowed to be. We continued on to look at roads around Caloundra, particularly at Nicklin Way and Caloundra Road and eventually ended up at Landsborough Railway Station where we looked at a project that is particularly important to me and my constituents, as I know it is to your constituents, Mr Speaker, and that is the north coast rail duplication. It was fantastic to have Tim and Deb on the coast for 24 hours. It was marvellous to show them our key priority projects and what we are fighting for and to have their commitment to work with us.

I want to briefly mention that it was not the first time I had the leader in the electorate, because on 25 June Tim Nicholls in his capacity as the shadow arts minister joined me in opening an exhibition at my good friend Tony and Jane's gallery Art on Cairncross titled *Mutual Respect* where we showed Rex Backhaus-Smith, Tom McAulay, Michael Nicholas and Rick Everingham—four wonderful senior Queensland artists, artists that I would implore the government to consider showing more and actually purchasing paintings from to really showcase what Queensland art is capable of.