




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 10 August 2017

ADJOURNMENT

Glass House Electorate, Roadworks; Hockings, Mr FD, AM

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (5.51 pm): When I first became the LNP candidate for the seat of Glass House, I vowed to improve the D'Aguilar Highway and make it safer. I have doggedly pursued those improvements over the eight years I have been the member and we have had extraordinary success. The proof is in the massive reduction in accidents on the highway. I must at the outset acknowledge the support and funding secured by my good friend and former member for Longman Wyatt Roy who, as the federal member for Longman, secured \$16 million for the highway.

We have had speed reductions at County Drive in Wamuran and Mary Street in Woodford. We have had intersection improvements such as the one at Canando Street, Woodford. We have had divided centre lines put in place, safety barriers installed and lighting upgraded. Importantly, we have had the first ever new east-bound overtaking lane on the D'Aguilar Highway built between D'Aguilar and Wamuran.

We have three more projects underway. We have an overtaking lane being built between Woodford and D'Aguilar as you leave Woodford at Peterson Road all the way through to Chambers Road, a one-kilometre stretch, including upgrades to the Ironbark Road intersection and Chambers Road. McIlwain Civil Pty Ltd have been given that contract. Work is to start at the end of the year and it would take up to 12 months, weather permitting.

The D'Aguilar intersections will be upgraded. This is a \$1.55 million project that will see dedicated right-turn lanes on the highway at the Francis Street, Bleakley Street and Mount Mee Road intersections and better access into the corner store, the hotel-motel and the Puma petrol station. We will also get a new pedestrian crossing between Francis Street and Bleakley Street. That will begin this month and take about six months to construct, weather permitting.

Finally, there is the Woodford pedestrian crossing. Unfortunately, this government has delayed the consultation that should have occurred last year on this crossing, but the community can know that there will potentially be a new signalised crossing on the highway and a marked pedestrian crossing on Archer Street to either side. That should occur in the next financial year.

In the time remaining I want to reflect on the passing of a friend: Francis David Hockings AM. David, as we all knew him, was a real livewire with a love for all things natural. He was born in the Torres Strait, and I think that is where he was first introduced to nature. He had a 40-year career in the Department of Primary Industries. David received an AM for his work with Australian native plant species. We all knew him as a very vibrant member of the Maleny Singers. He had a wicked sense of humour, and that laugh will stick with me forever and a day. I want to pay my respects to his wife Olive and his children Cicely, Lindy and Cole. We have lost a great friend. I am here to support you in your time of grief.