




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 13 February 2018

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (11.21 am): It is with much honour that I also rise to support the nomination and the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition in putting forward the member for Caloundra for the role of Speaker. In common with the member for Kawana, I have the honour of being a neighbour of the member for Caloundra and I can attest to what the member for Kawana has already shared about the member for Caloundra. Let me go one step further. I have had the privilege of recently acquiring a part of the Caloundra electorate in the seat of Glass House, that of the village of Mooloolah. The village of Mooloolah speaks incredibly highly of the representation they have had by the member for Caloundra. In fact, it has been quite a task to convince them that, whilst we represent the same political persuasion, I will represent them in a way similar to the standard that the member for Caloundra has set.

He has the honour and respect of his community. He has the honour and the respect of his fellow members on the Sunshine Coast and, indeed, across the LNP party room—those of us represented on the opposition benches. He has the respect of the LNP more broadly. It was he as the leader of the Liberal Party, alongside the then leader of the National Party, Lawrence Springborg, who brought our two parties together. We here thank him for that. We know that he did that through demonstrating high integrity and taking forward a position that we could support. I have no doubt that the member for Caloundra will bring the gravitas needed in the role of Speaker, that he will demonstrate an ability to control the House in a way that you, Madam Presiding Member, have just demonstrated from your experience, that he will be able to undertake the regal duties required of the role and that he will have the respect of the entire chamber including those sitting on the government benches.

In common with the member for Kawana, I call on those opposite, including the Deputy Premier, to come on board with the LNP. Let us vote in the member for Caloundra as the next Speaker of this parliament. If they cannot and if many, I suspect, do not want to support the member for Mulgrave, let me give them another alternative. There is an alternative. There is a Labor member who has demonstrated gravitas, who has demonstrated the ability to control this chamber, who has had the respect of this chamber including those on the opposition benches, who was well respected in his electorate and who I think if their electorate were polled today would wish he was back there, and that is the honourable Speaker John Mickel. If members opposite cannot support the member for Caloundra, as we in the opposition will; if they cannot support the member for Mulgrave, as we suspect they cannot; and if they cannot support the current member for Logan, as many here cannot, then let us start the campaign. Let us bring back John, someone who represents Labor values but who can stand in this place with the respect and the gravitas that this chamber deserves. They certainly will not get that under the member for Mulgrave. As speakers on this side have already presented, he will not have the respect of this chamber. He certainly does not have the respect of some sitting on the front bench. He certainly will not have the respect of the opposition benches because of what he has dealt with during his term as treasurer and in presiding over the 'rail fail'.

This role is an important role. It is too important a role for those opposite to be supporting the member for Mulgrave. I implore everyone in this chamber to put their vote behind my friend the member for Caloundra. I wish him all the best in this debate.