



Speech By  
**Andrew Powell**


**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Blackall Range Regional Art Gallery

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (6.06 pm): I believe the Sunshine Coast is the visual arts capital of Queensland and one of the major art destinations in Australia. We already boast an incredible collection of more than 40 private and public art galleries and open studios that draw art lovers from all over. Whilst those galleries and artists are increasingly unifying around a local art trail, I believe the Sunshine Coast is lacking a jewel in the crown: a true regional visual arts gallery.

Regions like the Tweed Valley in northern New South Wales have seen the benefit of building their own regional art gallery, which is nestled in an attractive environmental setting. Having personally visited and seen their success, I believe that the Blackall Range on the Sunshine Coast could take regional art galleries to another level and smash it out of the park. I want us to get alongside people like Tony Gill, the director of Art on Cairncross, to create a place where the wonderful works of local Sunshine Coast artists, as well as touring exhibitions, can be shown to Queensland, Australia and the world.

Just to list a few—and this is not a conclusive list—we have had internationally renowned artists with links to the Sunshine Coast like Hugh Sawrey, Charles Blackman, Lawrence Daws, Brett Whiteley, Greg Postle, Michael Cook, Rick Everingham and John Coburn. We have had noted Sunshine Coast artists who are sadly no longer with us such as Kevin Oxley, Nan Paterson, Craig Medson, James Fearnley and Hal Barton. We have fantastic living legends, Sunshine Coast painters like Rex Backhaus-Smith, Peter Hudson, David Paulson, Jandamarra Cadd, Pam Walpole, Raelean Hall, Tom McAulay, Judith Laws and Lisa Adams. We have Sunshine Coast 3D artists of note such as ceramicists like Johanna De Maine, Rowley Drysdale and Shannon Garson; sculptors like Kaya Sulc, How Chee Fong and Glen and Cathy Manning; and glass artists like Chris Pantano.

Imagine a major visual art gallery that celebrates artists such as these and that interacts with one of Australia's most iconic natural attractions: the Glass House Mountains. Imagine a major visual art gallery that not only services a growing region of over 300,000 but delivers on a vision for Queensland's cultural future. I stand ready to work with all levels of government—Commonwealth, state and local—and with the private and philanthropic sectors to make this vision a reality.