




Speech By
Stephen Andrew

MEMBER FOR MIRANI

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Mirani Electorate

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (2.31 pm): As I said in my maiden speech, the electorate of Mirani runs deep in my roots and I will always advocate for the best possible opportunities and prospects for the people and the Mirani electorate as a whole. As most members sitting in the House would be aware, the electorate spans 63,290 square kilometres. It covers much of the Queensland coast between the cities of Rockhampton and Mackay, as well as the hinterland west of Mackay and the sugar field plantations throughout towns including Sarina, Marian, Eton, Walkerston and Eungella, just to name a few. It is a regional electorate with many possibilities for growth and diversity by showcasing the best the electorate has to offer, from our pristine reefs to our rainforests.

Yesterday my office was sent a media release announcing that the Premier and the cabinet would be governing from the regions in Mackay. It is fair to say that Mackay and Mirani are neighbours as electorates. The constituents that entwine them are all but one. The constituents and community groups of both Mirani and Mackay work, live and play alongside each other.

Having said all of this, I would like to take the opportunity to extend an invitation on behalf of the Mirani electorate and my constituency to the Premier and the cabinet ministers to visit the Mirani electorate. As they govern from the regions in Mackay this month, they should visit the residents from the Sarina Range, whose main access road was decimated in ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie and who travel to Mackay for work on a dirt road that is precarious from the Koumala Range on the Koumala Bolingbroke Road; visit Sarina State High School, where \$10 million was promised as an election commitment for the school's P&C to use as they see fit for the redevelopment and refurbishment of classrooms and see the students who have to travel to Mackay for major sporting events; visit the Sarina Hospital, where \$16 million was promised as an election commitment for the remodelling and refurbishment and possible additions to essential services; visit the Pioneer Valley and places like Eungella and Finch Hatton Gorge to see the tourism expansion possibilities in the area; and visit several sugarcane and farming families in the region and take a tour of a sugarcane mill to see where and how our sugar is actually made. It would be fantastic for the Premier and the cabinet to visit these parts of the electorate to witness the sheer possibilities for growth in the regions.