




Speech By
Stephen Andrew

MEMBER FOR MIRANI

Record of Proceedings, 4 April 2019

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Mirani Electorate, Mount Morgan

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (2.12 pm): I rise to speak about several ongoing events in the Mount Morgan area that reflect badly on a number of federal and state agencies as well as large corporates. The first matter pertains to a black spot mobile tower which Telstra and its contractor Visionstream have been seeking to install within the small rural community of Struck Oil. The community came to me only a few weeks ago looking for assistance to have the 50-metre tower relocated to a more agreeable site on another hill approximately a kilometre down the road.

It would appear after visiting the site, listening to the community group and making further investigations that the truth of the matter can be distilled down to Telstra being under the pump to have this priority black spot mobile tower commissioned by 30 June 2019—the significance being the federal government election and presumably to have the federal member for Flynn to be seen cutting the ribbon and appearing to be a great champion for the community of Struck Oil.

Mr Butcher: He's no champion for anyone.

Mr ANDREW: I will take that interjection.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Pause the clock. Member for Gladstone, you are not in your correct chair. If you are going to interject, you need to be in your correct chair. You are warned under the standing orders.

Mr ANDREW: Fortunately, I must commend the Rockhampton Regional Council for discharging its rightful duty in denying the development application. As late as yesterday it was still battling to have Telstra, Visionstream and Ergon halt any further construction work without proper approvals. What is especially galling about the matter is that Telstra and Visionstream have treated the local community and Rockhampton council with complete disrespect and have sought to use every excuse to avoid making changes. Seriously, how disrespectful to the local community to fly in PR people from Brisbane and then claim that they did not have enough money for the changes needed.

On the second matter, it is heartening to hear that, despite various state agencies having naval gazed for seven years, the Rockhampton Regional Council is now seeking to have the necessary safety inspections done with a view to reopening the Fireclay Caverns near Mount Morgan. The Fireclay Caverns are distinct in that they have 200-million-year-old dinosaur footprints embedded in the roof. One may wonder where they came from—it may even be from One Nation preferences!

Mr Stevens: A dinosaur, I'd say.

Mr ANDREW: I thought it was from One Nation preferences! For many decades these caves have been a valuable tourist venue and provided the opportunity for small business to conduct guided tours for visitors who would then provide flow-on trade for many other businesses within Mount Morgan itself. Mount Morgan is a great community, and I am proud and honoured to serve as their local member.