



Speech By  
**Stephen Andrew**


**MEMBER FOR MIRANI**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Mount Morgan, Fireclay Caverns

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (6.15 pm): I rise tonight to talk about some of the jobs lost in my local area, especially at the Fireclay Caverns at Mount Morgan. Over the last seven to 10 years, Mount Morgan has lost between 8,000 and 10,000 tourists every year going through that area. It is such a special and momentous dinosaur cave. The tourism opportunity at Fireclay Caverns at Mount Morgan has gone begging because we cannot access them.

I wrote to the minister this week asking if this could be changed and a determination made so we can get some tourism back to this area. The amazing place of Mount Morgan, which got Queensland and Australia out of debt twice, should be recognised for its contribution and given some consideration as far as tourism is concerned. We need to ensure that, post COVID, we engage in these processes to give these small country towns, rural towns, the biggest benefit we can.

The Fireclay Caverns, with the dinosaur footprints that exist there, need to be reopened. It needs to be looked at by both state and local governments to ensure that the people of Queensland and, indeed, the people of Australia are allowed to go to these areas to have a look.

I also want to talk about the areas in Shoalwater Bay that were brought up by the federal government recently. Looking ahead to when some of the leases close or are shut down in 2025, there will be over 100,000 head of cattle per year that should be taken out of that area. There is a coalmine proposed. There are 167 permanent jobs in that area that will displace what has been taken out by the federal government. The Livingstone Shire Council has lost 10 per cent of its rate revenue because of those buybacks. We need to ensure that those jobs continue to support people in the central area of my electorate as well.

I just wanted to mention that tomorrow is a significant day for my wife, who is sitting in my office listening to this right now. Her grandmother—Dagmar Rehtla—turned 100 this week. She is an absolutely amazing woman. Her husband, Carl, from the mid-sixties through to the mid-eighties was a foreman and one of the cabinet-makers who looked after the premier's office and also the ministerial offices. They came here in the displaced persons scheme just after World War I. That scheme was enacted by Mr Calwell, one of the federal Labor members at that time. It is such a great time for our family. We will all be together tomorrow. I just wanted to mention that. Thank you.