




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

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ADJOURNMENT

Bruce Highway Western Alternative Project

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (8.38 pm): I rise to express my continuing concern and that of my constituents at the handling of the Bruce Highway Western Alternative project. I have said it before but I say it again: I support it. The western alternative is needed to ensure a real, viable option to the car park that is the Bruce Highway. What I do not approve of is the way the people of the Glass House electorate whose properties fall into the proposed routes, particularly in stage 2, have been treated. Countless constituents have emailed me saying they are confused as to whether their properties are going to be affected, angry that their dream home—their forever home—may be resumed.

Communication with the residents of Moorina, in particular, is not clear. It is not respectful; is not meaningful. There was no notification that their specific property was impacted by stage 2, leaving them to work it out for themselves or being informed by their neighbour. This lack of respect and communication means fewer people will support this project, making it more difficult to develop the western alternative. 'It is the indecision that is causing grief not the road being required,' one resident said. 'Communication is key. Many residents are now terrified. They are distressed.' As Lindsay and Janine Fox expressed, 'It is ludicrous that we were not given an opportunity to object.' John Langbridge said, 'I don't want to retire next to a major highway. I have delayed retirement as a result so I can keep my options open. There is a block of land coming up at Dayboro, what am I going to do?'

The uncertainty of not knowing what is going to happen to your property and not being able to plan for your future is not right. We have gone from a shaded wedge on a map—a 'study area'—to two options and will eventually settle on one but this unclear, uncertain and drawn-out process is causing so much anxiety in the community. I reiterate my request for more respect and clarity between the government, TMR, and the people of Moorina and Upper Caboolture.

Given what we have heard this week regarding new houses being resumed in Griffin on the same day that their owners are being handed the keys, it is clear the system is broken. This approach is not working; we need to find a better process. In the case of the Bruce High Western Alternative stage 2, we had the opportunity to do it right—we did not. We cannot repeat that mistake for stages 3 and 4. Let's work to achieve the best result for both our future growth and the residents of the Glass House electorate. Just a short disclaimer, my thanks to year 10 Maleny State High School work experience student Kelly Schofield for preparing this speech for me.