




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2023

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Glass House Electorate; Denver, Ms G

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (2.24 pm): As we have heard, it has been an absolutely dreadful start to this year's fire season and my region, particularly around Beerwah, has not been exempt. I want to pay particular credit to the crews at the Glass House Mountains, Beerwah, Peachester, Landsborough, Maleny, Mooloolah Valley and Eudlo rural fire brigades, who have attended fires at Beerwah not once but twice already. On that note I want to thank first officer Ben and brigade chair James from the Ocean View Rural Fire Brigade for the invitation to attend their recent AGM. They look after the southernmost community of the Glass House electorate around Ocean View. They do a fantastic job and are certainly recognised as one of the more professional and larger rural fire brigades in this region.

Whilst talking about AGMs, I also want to thank the Montville Village Association for their invitation to attend, be guest speaker and oversee the election of office bearers at their recent AGM. I want to pay special tribute to outgoing president Michael Bradley, who served four very tough years as president and welcome incoming president Wayne Parcell, who is well known to the Montville community.

In the time remaining I want to say farewell to another community dynamo from Maleny, my dear friend Gail Denver, who on 30 September at age 67 sadly passed away. She beat cancer twice; unfortunately, the third time it got her. As her brother Simon shared at a recent memorial, 'Gail sucked the marrow from the bones of life. She loved it.' She had an infectious sense of humour and a dazzling dimple, but one of the things that really brought us together was our shared love of cricket. I mentioned her sense of humour. She managed to bluff her way into the members' pavilion at the Gabba at the 1988 Ashes by posing as the wife of English fast bowler Graham Dilley with her brother Simon in tow as a journalist supposedly representing the *Yorkshire Post*. They spent the afternoon sipping gin and tonics and munching on cucumber sandwiches. There are stories that, posing as a journalist, she also managed to get into a subsequent Ashes game as well.

She and I set up our celebrity cricket match each year to raise funds for the Lung Foundation. These celebrity matches saw the former member for Callide get stitches above his eye; the former member for Buderim have a shoulder reconstruction; her husband requiring stitches on his face; myself tearing a meniscus; and at least three cricket balls into the surrounding Mercedes Benz and various other cars at the Maleny showgrounds. Gail was involved in every community group: Pattermore House, the Maleny District Sport and Rec Club, the cricket club, Maleny Croquet Club, the Maleny Show Society and the Maleny players. She was one of those loved and invisible leaders who always let others take credit. Mankind needs a few more Gails. As others said—

You can close your eyes and pray that she will come back, or you can open your eyes and see all that she left behind. Your heart can be empty because you cannot see her, or you can be full of the love that you shared. You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday, or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday. You can remember her and only that she is gone, or you can cherish her memory and let it live on.