




Speech By
James Lister

MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN DOWNS

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ADJOURNMENT

Gladfield Driver Reviver; Cunninghams Gap

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (7.00 pm): I rise to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the volunteers of the Gladfield driver reviver.

Mr Minnikin: Hear, hear!

Mr LISTER: I take that interjection from my old friend the member for Chatsworth, our shadow transport minister. I acknowledge the presence of the transport minister in the House. He knows I am disappointed about the outcome and the decision to close down the driver reviver stop on the Gladfield TMR site, but I would like to focus on the volunteers who for long decades have provided a cup of tea and a bit of a yarn to weary travellers during the day and night, particularly during holiday periods. We will never know how many lives have been saved, but I would bet a penny to a pound that it is more than one. That in itself is no small thing. I pay tribute to John Newley and John Griffith particularly as the gentlemen who have done the coordination of the many volunteers from various community groups such as Lions and Rotary and others who have manned the driver reviver at Gladfield. They can be very proud of what they have done over the years, and on behalf of a grateful community I would like to salute them.

The one other thing I would like to raise is the coming closure of Cunninghams Gap, which is a vital road into my electorate. Again I acknowledge the presence of the minister here and I would like to thank him for allowing me to have a briefing from his department in due course about that. I do gratefully acknowledge the federal and state governments for funding the works that will be going on at Cunninghams Gap, particularly the stabilisation of the rock face that overhangs that particular road by about 100 metres. We certainly do not want to see a landslip there that could kill people or block the road for months or years.

These works are necessary, but I do understand and sympathise with the many people in the community who will be disadvantaged during the period of the roadworks, including businesses such as the Fisher Park Road House, Bestbrook Mountain Farmstay, Merivale Pub and Gap Creek Moto, which will be disadvantaged along with some tourism operators and those who use the road such as the transport industry. I understand that the department has been consulting with the Queensland Trucking Association and others regarding the best way to press on with those particular roadworks involving notified opening of the road and perhaps closure at certain times of the day. I applaud that. That is probably the best way for the community to adapt to the issue. I thank the community for their engagement with me on this and I thank the department.