



Speech By  
**Andrew Powell**


**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

---

Record of Proceedings, 13 February 2024

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Glass House Electorate, Bruce Highway Western Alternative**

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (7.00 pm): Tonight I again rise on the matter of the Bruce Highway Western Alternative. I stand before you on behalf of the resilient and tight-knit communities of Moodlu, Caboolture East and Elimbah whose voices are raised, not in opposition to progress, but in defence of their homes, their farms, our environment and our heritage. These will all be impacted by the Department of Transport and Main Roads' proposed routes for stage 4. Moodlu, Caboolture East and Elimbah form a community of 4,500, with even more using the district for recreation. Members heard this morning during the tabling of petitions that over 10,000 voices have joined in opposition to the proposed routes. In addition, these 510 written submissions attest to the passion and considered approach of my communities. I table those.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of submissions from community residents relating to the Bruce Highway Western Alternative Stage 4 project [177](#).

Please treat those submissions with the respect and care with which they have been crafted. They urge ministers and government officials to recognise the vital importance of engaging with local communities in long-term state planning processes. The recent consultation process that was dropped on us weeks out from Christmas and scheduled during the holiday season has left the communities that I have the honour of representing—and neighbouring communities—feeling marginalised and distrustful. All of us question the timing and motives behind such decisions which seem designed to stifle meaningful community feedback. This is not how you treat people. In the community's interactions with TMR, they have encountered tactics that can only be described as bullying. Residents have been informed that engagement is a mere formality, with little room for genuine collaboration or transparency. This lack of respect for the community's input undermines the democratic process and erodes trust in government institutions.

Furthermore, they implore the government to consider the human cost of its proposed routes. In their words—

The land in question is not merely geography; it is the source of our collective history, the legacy of generations past. To pave over this heritage with asphalt is to erase a part of ourselves—a part that cannot be replaced or rebuilt.

The proposed route would result in the displacement of over 140 homes and farms, fracturing our once vibrant community beyond recognition. If there are alternatives that have smaller impacts—and there are—is progress truly worth the price of such devastation? Every Queenslanders has the right to own a home and they should be able to retain their homes, their investments, their dreams and their way of life, especially in the midst of a housing crisis. If that right is to be taken away, a corridor is protected and resumptions occur, those losing their property must be justly compensated. There should be no financial burden for any impacted resident. I thank the shadow minister for main roads for visiting with the community to hear their stories. Both he and I—and most importantly, the community members—stand ready to work collaboratively with the minister and TMR to find solutions that balance progress with preservation.