




Speech By
Glen Kelly

MEMBER FOR MIRANI

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ADJOURNMENT

Moonlight Range Wind Farm

 **Mr G KELLY** (Mirani—LNP) (9.09 pm): Tonight I rise to speak not just about policy but about people, about the families who call Morinish and regional Queensland home. There are folks who move to the bush for peace, space and the freedom of rural lifestyle, but there are also many, like me, who never left—generational family farmers where the lands run through their blood; properties passed down over time with a deep connection to country.

Imagine building that life, or carrying on the one your family built, only to find out a wind farm is being built next door. You did not hear it from the developer, no letter in the mail, no respectful conversation; you heard it from a rumour, a neighbour or, worse, read about it online.

Living beside a wind farm is not just about what you see; it is also about what you hear and feel every day: the constant whooshing from blades, pressure in the air and the vibration that never goes away. It wears people down. Then there is the fire risk. Kilometres of powerlines cut through landscape, and when fires do strike, getting water bombers in throughout those turbines is near impossible.

When remnant vegetation is cleared from steep mountain ranges, the protection against erosion is lost. This results in topsoil loss during heavy rainfall, leading to sedimentation in waterways, degradation of local ecosystems and long-term impacts on land productivity.

The landholder with the turbines might get paid, but the neighbours wear the cost with no say and no support. That is exactly what happened in Morinish. The developers ran one so-called consultation, talking at people, not with them. However, locals like Steve Richards stood up. They formed the Moonlight Range Preservation Group—over 100 members strong, and that is a pretty big number in a small, quiet community. They were not against renewables; they were standing up for their homes, their peace of mind and their kids' future.

When the ministerial call-in process opened, 88 per cent of local submissions opposed the project. The Crisafulli government listened. We promised to give communities in the bush a voice and we delivered. Cancelling this project means 1,263 hectares of bushland will not be bulldozed. It means 400 hectares of regulated vegetation will remain standing habitat for koalas, greater gliders, wallabies and native wildlife. We have stopped the blasting of untouched mountaintops. We have protected ecosystems that may never recover once they are disturbed. This is not just a win for Morinish; it is also a win for Queensland's environment and for future generations.

(Time expired)