



Speech By
Hon. Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 23 April 2026

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE
COMMITTEE**

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (3.27 pm): At the outset I acknowledge my colleague the member for Warrego, the Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers, for her referral of this inquiry to the Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee in the first place. We have all spoken of the importance of volunteering. We all know many of the challenges we have heard anecdotally from our volunteers. It was very timely that the minister provided the committee with this referral and I thank the committee for their consideration and their report.

I rise today to acknowledge that report and extend my heartfelt thanks to the many amazing volunteers across the Glass House electorate for all they do. From our local community groups and sporting clubs to our dedicated emergency services personnel, who step up in times of fire, flood and storm, your service underpins the strength, resilience and spirit of our region. We are forever grateful for your commitment and care.

I rise today to recognise and celebrate a remarkable group of people who form the backbone of every community across the electorate of Glass House. Our volunteers are individuals who give their time, energy and compassion, not for recognition or reward but because they believe in the strength and spirit of community. They are the quiet achievers who step forward when help is needed and remain long after the spotlight has moved on.

We see volunteers in our local schools mentoring young people and helping shape the next generation. It is in that spirit that I want to make special mention of Megan Holznagel from the Peachester P&C. In a small, close-knit school community of around 40 families, Megan has been the heart of the P&C and a dedicated volunteer for more than 11 years. She is someone who never complains, who is always the first to put her hand up and who quietly keeps things running behind the scenes without ever seeking recognition. Megan juggles work and the busy extracurricular lives of her three children, yet she still finds the time to give so much back to her school community. Her ongoing commitment, kindness and unwavering community spirit make a real and lasting difference. She represents the very best of what it means to be a volunteer.

I would also like to acknowledge Kirsty Levis who works with the Uniting Church and beyond. Kirsty is deeply committed to her church, including her involvement with the Girls' Brigade. At the Upper Caboolture Uniting Church's 150th celebration in November last year, she played a key role in organising the Girls' Brigaders, who did a fantastic job managing parking for the event and ensuring the whole day ran smoothly. In addition to this, Kirsty serves as the church treasurer—a role she undertakes with diligence and care. But, wait for it, she does much more. She also serves on the Beerburum School of Arts Association, the Caboolture Community Action group and the Glass House Mountains

Rural Fire Brigade as well as supporting the Glass House Mountains Community Collective. Without her, the communities around Beerburrum, Glass House Mountains, Upper Caboolture and Caboolture more generally would all fall in a heap. Thank you, Kirsty.

Then there is Vicki Heading, our current Glass House District Tennis Club president. Vicki has been involved in tennis for many years. When she lived in Maleny, she was heavily involved in the then Maleny Swimming Club as well as giving 25 years to Maleny Quota. She was an instrumental member at the Maleny and District Tennis Association. After she retired and moved back to the Glass House Mountains, she recognised the need to revive the local tennis club. Thanks to her dedication and leadership, she now serves as president of the newly re-established Glass House District Tennis Club, which is now an incorporated association affiliated with both the Glasshouse Mountains Sports Club and Tennis Queensland.

I also want to acknowledge Lynda Burgess, the President of the Maleny Show Society. She has been a member of the Show Society for over 21 years and has stepped into the role of president. Lynda demonstrates her deep love and dedication to her community through the countless hours she has devoted to making local events such as this an outstanding success. Her contributions extend well beyond the showground. She was named the 2020 Zonta Woman of Achievement, a testament to her tireless service and leadership. Like Kirsty, she has been actively involved in so much more. She is part of the Witta Recreational Club, the Maleny Hospital Auxiliary and the Maleny District Senior Citizens' Club, and she has also helped to run Muscle on the Mountain.

To every volunteer across our region—whether your contribution is seen by many or known by only a few—please know that your efforts matter. You are making a real and lasting difference. Finally, I want to acknowledge the many community organisations across Glass House that are strengthened, sustained and often entirely powered by volunteer effort. These organisations are the backbone of local connection, opportunity and care, and they simply could not function without the volunteers. On behalf of the Queensland parliament and the people of Glass House, I extend my sincere thanks. Your dedication, generosity and community spirit embody the very best of who we are. Thanks to all the volunteers.