



Speech By  
**Andrew Powell**

**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

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**MOTION**

**Natural Disasters**

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (3.43 pm): Many a day goes by when Queenslanders are incredibly grateful that we live in the best state in the best nation in the world and we reflect on how perfect it often is, but tragically there are days, there are weeks, there are months when disaster after disaster befalls us and we epitomise the drought and flooding rains that Australia is known so well for.

As a south-east member of parliament and as the representative of some 20 communities in the Glass House electorate, I send my thoughts and prayers to our fellow Queenslanders in North and North-West Queensland. We have not experienced what you have. What you have experienced is almost beyond imagining for those of us in South-East Queensland. We have had only but a taste of what you have experienced. In May 2015 in my part of the world we tragically lost four individuals through flooding. It does not compare to what those in North and North-West Queensland have experienced over the last couple of months and those in Central Queensland have experienced with the fires. I want to reassure you that we understand.

There are people in the electorate of Glass House who know exactly what you are going through, people like Kim and Tove Easton whose nephew Gerald and his wife Megan Easton live on a property, Cameray Downs, 100 kilometres north-west of Richmond. Kim shared with me the tragic story of how the Easton family of Cameray Downs have nursed their 2,500 head of cattle through seven successive years of drought only to watch 2,000 of them perish in the floods and are now fearing that the 400 to 500 remaining will die of starvation because they cannot get feed to them because the infrastructure is broken and they do not have the bullets to end the misery that those cattle are experiencing.

I have shared on my Facebook page a GoFundMe page that the Easton family has set up. They are on their way. Sadly they have only raised \$14,840 as I speak. They are willing to name a cow after anyone who makes a donation. I have made my donation so I am hoping sometime soon there will be a cow running around at Cameray Downs with Andrew Powell written on it—Powell cow. I call on those in Glass House to step up and help out the Easton family of Cameray Downs and all of the families in North and North-West Queensland. The LNP team, led by Deb Frecklington, stand ready to assist those in that part of the world in their recovery over the coming months as the immediacy dissipates but the reality of recovery kicks in. I say to them we are here to help you, we will continue to visit you, we will be there to listen to you and make sure that you rebound better than ever.