



Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 27 February 2019

ADJOURNMENT

Maleny State School, Proposed Development

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (7.22 pm): I rise to address the fact that D-day is fast approaching for the Maleny community. I refer to the live development application that is afoot for a proposed petrol station and fast-food outlet opposite the Maleny Primary State School. I will be up-front. Maleny could probably do with an additional petrol station, and that is very much supported throughout the community. Maleny has a very particular focus when it comes to fast-food outlets though, and it is probably not very welcome. However, no-one wants it as you enter the town and no-one wants it directly opposite our state school.

Sadly, because of changes made to the last Sunshine Coast Regional Council town plan, the project is code assessable. The one glimmer of hope the community and those who are very concerned about this have is that, because it is on a main road and it is directly opposite a state school, it has been referred to SARA—the state agency that looks at these considerations—for input from organisations such as Education Queensland and the Department of Transport and Main Roads. We have a decision due later this week from SARA. Sadly, that decision will ultimately inform what the council does. As I said, it is code assessable. If the decision comes back in favour even with conditions, then I suspect this is going to proceed.

I sent an email through as recently as late last week or early this week to Ministers Dick and Bailey with expert traffic engineering reports that show that there are significant issues if this development goes where it is proposed. I would ask that, if there is any opportunity for SARA to seriously consider these and rule accordingly, they do so. I know also that the school community has lobbied the education minister, Grace Grace, very hard.

I know that petrol stations and fast-food outlets operate opposite schools around the state, but let me refer to an article in the *Sunshine Coast Daily* from 26 February in relation to the Chancellor State College Secondary Campus. Councillor Dickson said in the article that the development had been conditioned by the book but admitted that planners may have lacked foresight by not anticipating the traffic and safety issues. What is basically happening here is that, despite there being a pedestrian crossing some 100 metres down the road, the kids are doing the bolt across the very busy road to the fast-food outlet. The council are now having to bring forward funding to put a safety refuge in the middle of the road and ultimately signalise it.

We have an opportunity here. I know when a council has made something code assessable that it is difficult for us to stop it, but I again plead with Minister Dick and Minister Bailey in particular as the relevant agencies to really look at this. I want to acknowledge Angie Kelly from No Fuel Opposite Our School EVER and Adrian McCallum from the Maleny Primary State School P&C for the advocacy that they have had in this area.