



Speech By  
**Andrew Powell**

**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

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Record of Proceedings, 5 September 2019

**MOTION**

**Newman LNP Government, Performance**

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (12.06 pm): I too rise to oppose this motion. We are only debating this motion because, let's face it, this week has not quite worked out the way that the government planned. They planned to come to Townsville to reset how they are being perceived in the regions. As my colleague the member for Burdekin said, they are only debating this motion because they have been copping stick all week. In fact, they have been copping stick all year. If those opposite need a little reminder, I refer them to the editorial in the *Townsville Bulletin* on 2 May this year. The headline reads, 'Thuringowa MP Aaron Harper needs refresher on his job'. The article states—

We pay the member for Thuringowa, Aaron Harper, a base salary of \$159,122 a year. Now, he needs to do his job.

...

When Mr Harper stood up in Queensland parliament on Tuesday and berated his local newspaper and peak economic development organisation Townsville Enterprise, he did precisely the opposite of his job.

This publication and Townsville Enterprise have asked him to sign a pledge saying he supported mining in the Galilee Basin. He refused and instead spat the dummy accusing us all of being biased towards the LNP.

The truth is, this is nothing about the left or the right side of politics. It's about who is willing to stand by our side and fight for North Queensland.

Sadly, I say to the members in the gallery that that is not the member for Thuringowa, neither is it the member for Townsville or the member for Mundingburra. I table that article.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Townsville Bulletin*, dated 2 May 2019, titled 'Thuringowa MP Aaron Harper needs refresher on his job: We pay the Member for Thuringowa Aaron Harper a base salary of \$159,122 a year. Now, he needs to do his job' [1444](#).

We need only ask the people of Aitkenvale how they feel about the member for Mundingburra. When the government proposed to stick a five-storey youth foyer development in their neighbourhood, they rebelled. They went to the member for help, but she refused to help. The member brought in the minister under the cover of darkness, but they refused to meet the residents. Instead, it was the LNP that stood up, worked with the Aitkenvale community and delivered the outcome that they wanted. That youth foyer has now moved to Pimlico.

If those in the gallery, particularly students, want a history lesson—we heard the member for Townsville talking before about school closures—what is Labor's record on school closures? Seven schools were closed each year for 20 years—140 schools were closed. There are two schools being built this year. Where are they? One in the minister's electorate and the other in the member for South Brisbane's electorate. The people of Townsville do not need to wonder where their taxpayers' dollars are going. They are going to the member for South Brisbane's electorate—a school, a railway line, a museum, a theatre—all going in to prop up the Deputy Premier and her property investments. If the members opposite need a history lesson, we are happy to provide it.

*(Time expired)*