




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 21 May 2020

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Wedding Industry

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (2.18 pm): I rise this afternoon to urgently seek the government's intervention to save Queensland's wedding industry. Each and every member of parliament would have received emotional emails from brides, grooms and wedding planners distressed that they had to postpone or cancel their wedding day plans. Many of them initially understood that we were in the midst of a health crisis and the sacrifice of their special day was necessary to save lives. Because of their sacrifice, and the efforts of our frontline health workers and all Queenslanders, the worst has passed. We need to stay vigilant, sure, but it is time for us to now give Queensland couples the opportunity to reschedule their weddings. Sadly, the road map to recovery does not allow wedding venues to do that.

I represent Queensland's paramount wedding destinations: in the north, the Blackall Range with Flaxton, Montville and Maleny and countless wedding venues like Weddings at Tiffany's, Flaxton Gardens and Maleny Manor; in the south, the D'Aguilar Range with venues like Glengariff, Ocean View Estates, Brockhurst Farm and Birches at Mount Mee; and in the middle around the Glass House Mountains with venues like Hideaway Weddings. Locally the wedding industry brings in some \$55 million to the economy each year. Across the state it is close to a \$700 million industry and includes other premium destinations like Tamborine Mountain and venues like Gabbinbar Homestead in Toowoomba and White Chapel in Kalbar.

Hinterland Tourism, representing the vast majority of these operators, has written to the Premier proposing a carefully considered six-point plan so they can realistically begin to take bookings of around 100 guests from mid-July: (1) the venue will be closed to the public during the private wedding function; (2) all guests' names and contact details must be provided to the venue seven days before the event; (3) the venue will keep that list on file for future reference; (4) guests will be encouraged to download and have active the COVIDSafe app; (5) each guest will have their temperature taken at the venue on arrival; and (6) standard COVIDSafe hygiene protocols will be followed with respect to hand sanitiser and hard surface cleaning.

I table that urgent request and with it letters of support from the Australian Bridal Industry Academy, the Montville Chamber of Commerce, and Queensland operators from Port Douglas and Tinaroo in the Far North to Hope Island and Tambourine Mountain in the south.

Tabled paper: Bundle of documents relating to hinterland tourism and Queensland wedding operators [808](#).

Please, Premier, work with the industry to give certainty to the operators and hope to brides and grooms across the state.