




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

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ADJOURNMENT

Joyce Newton OAM Memorial Bursary

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (7.02 pm): Tonight I have several special guests here in parliament. Ebony King is a year 12 student from Glasshouse Christian College. She is here with her mum, Jade King. Colleagues, if you have ever sampled finger limes as part of our cuisine at Parliament House, Jade is the grower of those finger limes. Welcome to Jade and Ebony. Ebony and Jade are also joined by my good friend Jen Tunley and her brother, Carl Newton.

I would like to welcome these three ladies and Carl, and acknowledge why they are here. Ebony is the winner of my second annual Joyce Newton OAM Memorial Bursary. To apply for the bursary, Ebony wrote me a 1,000-word essay on the importance of the New Bradfield Scheme to the state of Queensland. Now, to be blunt, the current government could stand to learn a lot from Ebony's contribution. She is as sharp as a whip and wrote convincingly on the many benefits Queensland would receive from building such a visionary scheme, but I will touch on that more a bit later.

The namesake of the bursary, Joyce Newton, was a passionate community advocate in Maleny, an LNP party stalwart and a dear friend to many, including myself. Sadly, she passed away in 2018 of motor neurone disease. Maleny has not been quite the same ever since. After her passing, I wanted to honour Joyce and her legacy. After putting my head together with her equally community minded daughter, Jen Tunley, the Joyce Newton OAM Memorial Bursary was born.

As well as reading part of Ebony's speech in parliament here tonight, she has also received a \$1,000 gift voucher to local Maleny business Concept IT and dinner in the Strangers Dining Room, which is waiting for her straight after this speech.

I want to come back to Ebony's essay, where she succinctly articulated the way in which the New Bradfield drought relief scheme would divert water from the high rainfall regions of North Queensland's rivers through to Western Queensland and eventually turn the region into a food bowl for greater Queensland and, indeed, Australia. She wrote:

The Bradfield Scheme as a drought mitigation strategy has the potential to be invaluable to Queensland, not just for farmers, but due to the possibilities of employment opportunities, state food security, hydro-electric power generation and reduced nutrient and sediment loading into the Great Barrier Reef.

She then continued—

In addition, and in contrast to drought mitigation, recent flooding in 2019 in large areas of Northern Queensland has highlighted the potential for the New Bradfield Scheme to potentially mitigate the damage from floodwaters on both agricultural land and coastal communities due to the planned diversions.

I am still proud to be part of a team that brought forward this visionary, state-building project to the last election. I hope that a future government will reconsider the New Bradfield scheme. Perhaps it will be young Ebony's generation that will drive the kind of change in thinking needed to push forward long-term endeavours like these, which will support many future generations of Queenslanders yet to come.