



Speech by

## Carryn Sullivan

MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

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### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

**Mrs SULLIVAN** (Pumicestone—ALP) (3.06 pm): I feel quite privileged this afternoon to rise to speak after what I consider to be two very good rising stars in the Labor Party—Chris Bombolas, the new member for Chatsworth, and the new member for Ashgrove, Kate Jones, whom I am sitting next to, who tells me that she is an avid speech writer. Unfortunately, I think that she will be of more use to me than I am to her. I certainly want to wish both Chris and Kate all the very best. As I said, it is a great privilege to speak after them.

I am absolutely delighted to be once again elected to represent the electorate of Pumicestone. This is my third term and, although there were certainly some issues in the lead-up to my third term, the majority of people in the electorate of Pumicestone believe that the Beattie Labor government was certainly more credible and could better resolve the issues.

I had enormous support also from my family, staff, the ALP, both in Brisbane and the local branch, people from the community and also people who kept calling my office with offers of assistance. I did not get too many favours from the local press. In fact, I had people writing to the papers trying to defend me, but as I said to them I was quite capable of defending myself. I gave just as much as they did. I was certainly able to get out all of my positive messages by way of direct mail. A lot of coloured brochures and flyers went out, and a lot of good old-fashioned doorknocking occurred. To save money, a lot of my volunteers also letterboxed and they had very sore feet.

Figures from the 2006 state election show that I improved my primary vote marginally by 2.4 per cent. In fact, with only three candidates on the ballot paper, I received over 50 per cent of the primary vote. The Labor vote was 55.42 compared with the Liberals on 44.58. The Liberals continue to run unsuitable candidates. But if, in the lead-up to the next election, the Liberals selected a more formidable opponent, then I would certainly have a fight on my hands to retain the seat for a fourth term for the Labor Party.

I must thank those who supported me in this election. I will not let them down. I will continue to work just as hard during the next three years. I did manage to celebrate the win with my friends and family at a mate's home on the night of the election, but I went back to work—just as Peter Beattie told me to—the next day. I had two meetings booked in on the Sunday, and people were very grateful to see that I was still there and that I was still interested in attending functions in the community. We did not miss a beat in the office, and while I gave some R & R to my staff, who had put in extra hours, I have not had a night or a weekend off as yet. I am hoping to take a short break over Christmas and the new year and then start afresh in 2007.

I must add my congratulations to all members who returned. In my area I am particularly pleased to see the return of Carolyn Male, Linda Lavarch, Ken Hayward and Dean Wells, and I acknowledge them in the chamber this afternoon. We all work very well together and have managed to agree on many projects that have benefited all of our communities.

This year many cabinet ministers also took the time to visit Pumicestone. In the lead-up to the election some made commitments, and I will be making sure those commitments are met in my third term. Probably the biggest commitments were a 24-hour police station for Bribie Island, which has been lobbied

for in earnest for some time by the Bribie Island Chamber of Commerce since Mrs Anne Kinchela took over as president, the Neighbourhood Watch groups and permanent residents on Bribie Island and some individuals.

My heartfelt thanks go to the Hon. Judy Spence, the Minister for Police and Corrective Services, and her staff for working through this issue of great importance to the community. Of course the minister did not stop there. She was also instrumental in assisting Carolyn Male and me in getting our very own police district headquarters, which are soon to be finalised.

**Mr Johnson:** You want to thank us for that!

**Mrs SULLIVAN:** Some on the other side may try to take credit for it, but I have to say that it was our initiative. The sad point is that all the way through the election campaign the Liberals tried to jump on every single bandwagon—and they are still doing it. Under the minister's good leadership, Carolyn Male and I also managed to obtain more police and resources for Caboolture, Morayfield and Beachmere.

The other commitment for a six-month trial for more bus services in Beachmere made by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, the Hon. Paul Lucas—and I acknowledge him here in the chamber today—was very welcome. I have begun the process, with talks to commence with TransLink on 16 October to help develop this proposal, and we are confident that extra services will be up and running by the Christmas holidays.

While the minister is in the chamber, I would also like to thank him most sincerely for the amount of effort and money that he has put into Pumicestone. The second stage of the Caboolture northern bypass has started. This project was put on the backburner by successive governments for over 20 years. Somewhere in the vicinity of \$65 million is being spent, and it will make a huge difference to those people who live on Lower King Street, which is the main street of Caboolture.

We will also see some big improvements in the Caboolture-Bribie Island Road, with \$170 million proposed to four-lane the Bribie Island Road from the interchange at McDonald's on Lear Jet Drive right up to and including the very dangerous spot near the 24-hour service station on the Bribie Island Road. So I thank the minister. I have appreciated what he has done in the past and I very much look forward to more projects and more money in the next three years.

I would like to compliment the minister for education, the Hon. Rod Welford, for his fast-tracking of the replacement of asbestos roofs in schools program. There is only one school left in the entire electorate of Pumicestone that has asbestos roofs, and that school will be done this year. The Labor government is the only state government that has tackled asbestos roofs in schools. When the Liberals were in power in the mid-nineties and while Bob Quinn was the education minister, he said in this House that it is safe while it is maintained. The Liberals did not care about the asbestos and were quite prepared to leave it there, exposed to the weather and potentially putting children at risk.

I am very proud of the changes and improvements that we as a government have made in schools and the education system as a whole. As a former school teacher, I take great interest in schools and visit them regularly—often for a chat to see if I can help. I have been the honorary president of a local drug prevention program which has been successfully implemented in primary schools for over 11 years, and it was very gratifying on election day to be actually recognised by students who visited the polling booths with their families.

Each year, I invite the student leaders from schools in the electorate to visit parliament to see how it works. They are also given a tour and lunch, and my husband is often given the task of helping with the barbecue. I hope that he still has time to help me out because, for those members who do not know, my husband Jon has just been selected as the Labor candidate for the federal seat of Longman. Yes, I know that he would have everybody's full support in this chamber! I know they all wish him well, just as I do.

**Mr Springborg:** Was it a legitimate preselection?

**Mrs SULLIVAN:** As legitimate as you well ever know. Jon and I have made political history. We are the only married couple who have both won three consecutive elections at a state level, and I have followed Jon's footsteps to become the Chair of the Scrutiny of Legislation Committee. I am certainly looking forward to that challenge. It was Labor of course who set up this committee, and I am certainly very proud to chair it. I have big shoes to fill, but I certainly think I am up to that challenge. During the election campaign, Jon and I missed out on celebrating our 26th wedding anniversary, we missed out on my birthday and we missed out on Father's Day. However, we did catch up on the night after the election and celebrated all four events with a quiet family dinner at the Bribie Island Bowls Club.

I certainly hope to continue to work hard for the electorate. Providing my health stays well and providing the party endorse me, I will contest the next election for Labor. Queensland is looking at a redistribution of seats, and Pumicestone may well have brand-new boundaries. But, whatever happens, those constituents who fall within the boundary will have my full representation and I will do as much as possible to help those who have genuine concerns and problems.

Over the years, I have built up a network of contacts, and that is the great thing about being re-elected: it is that continuity that is so important. New members of parliament do take some time to find their feet, make some contacts and gain knowledge. I guess I was luckier than most in that my husband was a local MP before me and he certainly taught me a lot about the job. So, when I was elected in 2001, I was actually able to slip into the role quite comfortably and start from day 1.

Again, I would like to thank the community for their faith in me and the Labor party to govern this great state of Queensland. With our weather, the State of Origin win and the Broncos now the 2006 NRL premiers, who would live anywhere else?