



Speech by

Carryn Sullivan

MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

Hansard Wednesday, 20 May 2009

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Mrs SULLIVAN (Pumicestone—ALP) (7.51 pm): It is a privilege to rise in this place to participate in my fourth address-in-reply as the member for Pumicestone. In fact, I have been the only member for Pumicestone. I contested the seat in February 2001 when it was formed in a redistribution and am honoured to have served in the capacity as the local member for the last 8¼ years. I am not sure whether being the first and only member of the same electorate after four elections is a record, but it is one I gratefully hold.

I take this opportunity to congratulate all elected members and trust that new members find their role as fulfilling as I find mine. Some of my colleagues were not returned, and I miss them and their valuable contribution in this place. They were hardworking, decent members and I wish them all well in whatever endeavours they may choose in the future. I want to extend my congratulations to the Speaker and members who were elevated to the ministry in the Bligh government.

There has been a lot of profound change since my last address-in-reply in October 2006, particularly on a political front. Peter Beattie retired and Anna Bligh became the first female Premier of Queensland. Labor's Kevin Rudd was sworn in as Primer Minister and Allan Sutherland was sworn in as the mayor of the new Moreton Bay Regional Council. When Labor won federally in 2007 my husband of 29 years, Jon Sullivan, was elected as the federal member for Longman. Apart from a few streets, my new electorate of Pumicestone is almost entirely within Longman. With these changes has come a level of cooperation between all levels of government that I have never experienced before. This support has seen projects funded that would never have happened before, and now that we are all working together we are getting things done. What a breath of fresh air that has been—local, state and federal working together to achieve the best outcomes for our local area.

I want to say a big thankyou to the federal member, Jon Sullivan, and Mayor Allan Sutherland for their cooperation and support. Things are getting done, issues are being addressed quicker and the community is benefitting as a whole. I want to wholeheartedly thank the staff of both their offices because they go out of their way to help. Of course, some of the local councillors have been the most helpful and eager to work with the state and federal governments as well to benefit the community. I would also like to acknowledge in particular the hard work and support of Councillor Greg Chippendale and Councillor Chris Whiting. I encourage others to take advantage of this cooperative government approach.

I want to thank those who supported me in the last election—firstly, my staffers Judi and Amber, who ran the office as usual, coping with the mountain of extra workload an election brings. Both were happy to go the extra mile and hand out for me on election day. They handed out alongside my family members—husband, Jon, and daughters, Casey and Tai, and sister-in-law Jan Sullivan. It was the first time in our political history that we all could get out on the same day at the same election. Between Jon and I we have actually been through 11. Unfortunately, both daughters live permanently in Brisbane and could not vote for me, so I was very grateful for their help. Casey graduated from QUT Law with honours this year and I hope that one day she may follow in our footsteps.

I would like to particularly thank my campaign manager, Ryan Ginard. His patience and understanding kept the campaign on track and on budget. I would like to thank the Bribie Island ALP

branch members, particularly Brian and Yvonne Williams, Maurie Doyle, Jim Rayner and Caboolture branch members Carolyn and Jim Duncan, John and Carrie McNaught and Ray Graves. There were many other young Labor members who came up from Brisbane and lent a hand every weekend including Darren Cann, Sarah Shepley, Jessica Pugh, Kate Simpson and James Shannon. My good friends Marilyn Saxby, Laura Harrison, Jim Hutton, Daniel Denton, Steve Walker and George Droutsas have been with me at every election. I say a big thankyou to everyone who did anything for me during the campaign. I am extremely grateful.

There were six candidates this time—a record—and the Liberal National Party has learnt nothing from the last election. It continues to run an unsuitable candidate, and the tricks that he used to try to win this time were pretty colourful indeed. One so-called Independent was running around presenting himself to the public as a Labor member. He obviously was a stooge of the LNP and suspicions were raised when he was seen entering the LNP campaign office regularly. One has to wonder who was paying for his campaign.

There was a deceitful campaign from a small handful of disgruntled people who did not like the green zones put in place in the Moreton Bay Marine Park. They were simply there to prop up the LNP candidate and even had their untruthful signage on the back of the LNP's corflutes. It was purely politically motivated, selfish and a very poorly run campaign. If it had any brains it might have been dangerous.

The oil spill in Moreton Bay was incredibly challenging, but the state government managed it extremely well. If we believed the opposition lines we would think that Anna Bligh could have stopped the ship. Messages organised by the LNP on corflutes on election day suggested that I had done nothing about the oil slick. However, the LNP was nowhere to be seen when I was on the beach at 5 am the morning after the spill with Mayor Allan Sutherland working on strategies to immediately clean up parts of the Bribie Island beach that was affected. I would like to say that after 10 days the beaches were given a clean bill of health. I am very proud of everyone who had anything to do with the clean-up. By then the LNP was obviously desperate. Fortunately the majority of people did not believe any of the nonsense it was peddling. The LNP has to learn that it needs to treat the voters with the respect they deserve.

Meanwhile, I will keep working hard for the electorate I love and serve the constituents to the very best of my ability. A number of issues were raised during the election which I intend to follow up in my fourth term.

There is a desire and need to re-establish a permanent police beat in Beachmere, and I will be working hard to adhere to the wishes of the residents. I propose to become heavily involved in the establishment of a kindergarten at Beachmere. This was a promise made during the election campaign and I am looking forward to working with the community to see that kindergarten come to fruition.

I look forward to seeing all of the current roadworks finished in my electorate. I certainly look forward, as do many other people, to seeing all the current roadworks in my electorate finished. The traffic hold-ups have been somewhat frustrating, but they will eventually have been worth it when we get better and safer roads.

I have an open mind and plan to learn more about voluntary euthanasia. I have been invited to two separate meetings at the local Bribie Island group. I have heard many distressing stories about people dying in prolonged agony. I believe the subject needs to be discussed fully. I suggest members invite themselves to local group meetings as they would be most welcome. Dying with dignity is something that most people advocate, both young and old. In a society in which more people are growing older more rapidly it is an important issue about which I plan to do more research.

Where else would we live but Queensland? It is perhaps not so sunny today, but normally it is sunny one day and better the next. I am certainly looking forward to less rain in the next few days. I am looking forward to the Maroons winning the State of Origin and I am looking forward to the Broncos, who are well placed, winning the 2009 NRL premiership. Who would live anywhere else?