



Speech by


## Seath Holswich

MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

Hansard Thursday, 15 November 2012

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### PINE RIVERS ELECTORATE

 **Mr HOLSWICH** (Pine Rivers—LNP) (3.11 pm): As we approach the end of 2012, I take this opportunity to reflect on the ways the Newman government is delivering for Pine Rivers. The residents and businesses of Pine Rivers suffered years of neglect under the previous Labor government, but on 24 March residents of Pine Rivers made a strong statement that we needed a change. It was a strong message to the former Labor administration but also a strong statement to me and the Newman government that Pine Rivers expects better and expects a government that will deliver for our community. And deliver we have.

In only the first eight months of this government, Pine Rivers has been given a taste of just how this Newman government will continue to deliver for our community as we build a better Pine Rivers and build a better Queensland. Small business owners in Pine Rivers have expressed to me their relief that this government is reducing their red-tape burden. This government has empowered Pine Rivers small businesses by lifting the payroll tax threshold, with the promise of more payroll tax relief to come. We have abolished the disgraceful waste levy introduced by the previous Labor government. We are listening to small businesses, consulting with small businesses and working with small businesses. Our government knows that small local businesses, like the ones in my electorate, are the engine rooms of our economy and our community.

Disability services in Pine Rivers have also been given a boost under the Newman government. SCOPE, a disability respite service based in Strathpine, has been given \$920,000 in funding from our government to operate new disability respite services in the Pine Rivers region. This year's budget also provides \$11 million in ongoing disability services funding for this financial year. Schools in Pine Rivers have also received 70 e-tablets to assist special-needs students in improving their educational opportunities.

Pine Rivers is also benefiting from significant government spending on infrastructure projects. The AJ Wyllie Bridge will be reopened in December this year—finally. This project has remained on schedule since our government took office in March, which is more than could be said for the period of time before that. The Mount Mee Road flood repairs have also recently been completed, ahead of schedule. This year's budget also allocated \$7.3 million towards adding a third railway line between Lawnton and Petrie stations and \$3.6 million to upgrade the North Pine Water Treatment Plant. I also look forward to the completion in early 2013 of the new Pine Rivers Neighbourhood Centre, which has been a significant infrastructure project funded by the Department of Communities.

Schools in Pine Rivers have received a total of \$1.2 million to fix their maintenance backlogs. Schools have also received around \$31,000 in additional funding in literacy and numeracy grants. There is still much to do and many years of neglect to be addressed, but this government, even in its early days, is delivering for Pine Rivers and helping our community to build a better Pine Rivers.