




Speech By
Bruce Saunders

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

Record of Proceedings, 16 July 2015

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (10.28 pm): It is going to be very hard to compete with that previous speech, but I will try. I made a commitment to the people of the Maryborough electorate at the 31 January election that I would put Maryborough first. I am very proud to be part of a Labor team and the Palaszczuk government that has delivered for Maryborough. We had 18 years in the wilderness—15 years with One Nation and an Independent and three years with the LNP.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: I would like to know where these members' doctors are because for three years they had no voice and now they have a voice. It is a miracle! I cannot believe it. Going into this term, I knew the people of Maryborough were struggling. They were hurting. They were being whipped, they were being flogged by the LNP. We had to get Maryborough going again. We had to reinstate all the services that were taken away by the LNP. We had to get our local economy moving, and the Palaszczuk government and this budget will do that. I am very, very proud of this budget. Over the last three years the LNP turned their backs on the electorate of Maryborough. They denied resources.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: I hear the opposition telling me that they did not. I will give them a little bit of a fact: ours is the only hospital on the east coast of Australia without a pathology unit. Those opposite ripped it out. It will be a Palaszczuk government that will reinstate it.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Furner): Order! Member for Maryborough, take your seat. We will have some quiet.

Mr SAUNDERS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I do not need your protection from lightweights. During the election campaign we made a commitment to regional Queenslanders and especially to the electorate of Maryborough. I am very happy to be standing here tonight because the Maryborough people knew that we were going to keep our promise. That was the way we were going to move forward. We were not going to attack the small businesses, the farmers, the public sector workers or the industry workers. We would not take away from families to deliver to the state's wealthiest. We would not deny any pensioners their rights in order to deliver them to big business and we certainly would not sell assets, and I am proud of that.

I have the pleasure tonight of seeing these commitments delivered and it is a very, very good budget for the Maryborough electorate. For too long the people of the Maryborough electorate have been denied vital improvements to their communities. I promised the people of the Maryborough electorate that I would be Maryborough's voice in Brisbane, not the voice of Brisbane in Maryborough, like the former LNP member was.

I would like to thank the Premier and also the Treasurer because they listened to the people of Maryborough; they listened to my voice. I stand here tonight and I will tell the opposition and the member for Burnett what we have delivered for Maryborough. St Helens State School on the Maryborough-Hervey Bay road sees 8,000 cars each way each morning. For three years the LNP promised that we would get lights and a safer entry and exit for the schoolchildren and the parents. Did they deliver?

Government members: No!

Mr SAUNDERS: No, they did not deliver. Shame! Who delivered? The transport minister came up. I made representations to him, and I see the transport minister in the House tonight. I would like to thank him as would the parents and students of St Helens State School. The minister for transport and main roads came up and guess what we got? An amount of \$2.1 million, and I am grateful, along with the people of St Helens State School—the students. I say thank you very much to the minister.

Not only that, we had a floodway between Torbanlea and Hervey Bay. For years the LNP had thought bubbles. Every election they wheeled out the same ad, 'We're going to improve it.' Guess what? It will be done. I say thank you again to the minister. There is \$1.8 million to make the road from Torbanlea to Howard flood-proof so that students do not have to go through water to get home. I say thank you very much to the minister.

When we look at the budget for the Maryborough electorate, I am very proud to announce what the Palaszczuk government is delivering: \$3.68 million for children in need of protection; \$1.95 million to support the needs of children in out-of-home care; Aldridge State High School, Bauple State School, Maryborough State High School—sporting facilities upgrade. We have also got a guidance officer for Maryborough State High School. I say thank you very much to the education minister. We are on track in Maryborough now. Due to the record spending in the budget, Maryborough schools will not be left behind. There are flashing lights for Sunbury State School and, once again, I thank the minister. These lights were promised but were never, ever funded.

While we are on the subject of education, I have an article here from the Rockhampton *Morning Bulletin*. I listened to the member for Keppel talk about overcrowding in classrooms. An article in the Rockhampton *Morning Bulletin* on 16 January 2015 states—

MORE than 700 Rockhampton region students are among 58,000 across the state being educated in oversized classrooms.

I would like to table that article.

Tabled paper: On line article from the Rockhampton *Morning Bulletin*, dated 16 January 2015, titled 'Rocky kids crammed into classes' [\[813\]](#).

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: I was just curious. The other great thing with the budget is that we are reinstating the concessions to pensioners. It is a fantastic thing in the budget for my pensioners. An article in the *Fraser Coast Chronicle* on 5 June 2014 states—

SOME Pensioners are living in fear after the announcement of cuts to concessions in the State Budget.

So we have reinstated those concessions. This budget has been absolutely great for the Maryborough electorate. I am so proud to stand here and be part of the Palaszczuk government.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: When we look at the budget for the Maryborough electorate, we see that this budget is a game-changer. The LNP left Maryborough city as Detroit city. We are on track now to get Maryborough moving.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Order! Member for Maryborough, just a moment. Members, I am struggling to hear the member for Maryborough. There is far too much audible conversation and too many interjections that are not being taken. I know it is late at night. The member for Maryborough has the call.

Mr SAUNDERS: I said it before and I will keep saying it till the cows come home: I am very proud to be part of this Palaszczuk Labor government and very proud of the Treasurer. I am proud of all the representations I have made to the ministers. The difference between this government and the LNP government is that when I have made representations to the ministers, they have listened, they have heard my concerns and they have acted on my concerns. These are not my concerns; these are the concerns of my constituents. These are the people who come through my doors every day and talk to me and tell me the hardships they endured under three years of the LNP. They do not want to go back to—

Mr Bennett interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: Do not start on hard yakka. Do not start there. I am very, very pleased to say that I am part of this government.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Miss BARTON: I rise to a point of order. The Minister for Main Roads is interjecting and he is not sitting in his correct seat.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for your guidance on the matter but I am well aware of that. The minister knows the protocols of the House. The member for Maryborough has the call.

Mr Rickuss interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Lockyer. I really do not need your assistance. The member for Maryborough has the call.

Mr SAUNDERS: With improved local services and investments in the local industry, the electorate of Maryborough can finally start to rebuild. But this is not the end; this is just the beginning. These are the first steps in bringing Maryborough back from the ruthless LNP government of the past. I commend the bills to the House.