




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

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ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (5.44 pm): It is with pleasure that I rise this evening to make a contribution to the address-in-reply debate and acknowledge the traditions of the address-in-reply—an opportunity to express your appreciation to Her Majesty's representative and thank them for the words contained in their speech, which is in effect the government's speech. So it is an opportunity to respond to and understand that. In my personal view it is not really in the appropriate traditions that that speech be amended. They are the words from the Governor. It is the Governor's speech and to amend the Governor's speech seems to be a rather presumptuous thing for people to seek to do, so I note at the outset that I am opposing the amendment moved in the name of the Leader of the Opposition.

I want to speak to the importance and opportunity of joining the 55th Parliament, and it is a great pleasure to be able to serve as the member for Sandgate. As I said in my contribution to the confidence motion debate, I really do appreciate the great honour that the electors of Sandgate have given me in supporting my candidacy so strongly and allowing me to join this 55th Parliament which includes a very impressive group of diverse individuals across-the-board. It is a great opportunity to serve with such a very interesting and capable group of people across-the-board on both sides of the House. That is an important thing that we should all acknowledge and appreciate—that is, the opportunities that are granted to us to serve our communities and to serve with others in this place.

I am in particular very impressed by the diversity of backgrounds and life experience and the capabilities of my colleagues in the parliamentary Labor Party. I am very pleased that we have this opportunity to be on the government benches to serve our state and ensure that we continue the stewardship that Labor has delivered over the past 26 years or so of modernising this state, of taking this state out of the Dark Ages and into the brightness of the future. I am very confident that the Palaszczuk government will continue to play that role, and in that context I express my appreciation and honour to serve the Palaszczuk government as Leader of the House and as Assistant Minister of State Assisting the Premier. It was of course my privilege to serve in the 52nd Parliament and the 53rd Parliament. I skipped the 54th Parliament, but I have heard that that was a bit of an unpleasant period, so maybe it all turned out well in the end.

It is no great secret that I have only lived in the Sandgate community for a few years, but my connection with the area goes back much further to my early years when I attended Sandgate preschool in Lagoon Street which is now part of my daughter's school, Sandgate State School. It has been immensely satisfying to return to this great part of the world and for my family and I to have been so warmly embraced by the local community. Even more so, it was incredibly humbling to be elected to represent this wonderful electorate.

Mr Pearce: And a good member too.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I take that interjection. The historic bayside suburbs in my electorate are rather famous for their justifiable parochialism. Sandgate, Shorncliffe, Brighton and Deagon have a unique

seaside village or 'country town by the bay' atmosphere and charm. Historically, they have developed a unique identity, distinct from the surrounding areas. These days, the iconic Sandgate Town Hall has become very much a hub for a vibrant local arts and music scene supported by groups and individuals far too numerous for me to mention. For instance, every year the parklands surrounding the lagoon in the heart of Sandgate play host to the famous Einbunpin Festival—a showcase for what makes my community so special. I am very proud to have been a member of the festival organising committee for the past few years. That festival is just one of the many events on the area's local calendar, including the Sandgate Bluewater Festival, which revolves around the iconic Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race, which starts off at Shorncliffe. I know that the member for Gladstone would appreciate how important that yacht race is each and every year at Easter time.

Mr Butcher: Always good at the yacht club.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I acknowledge that there is always a good time to be had at the yacht club in Gladstone. The race has a great start at Shorncliffe.

Although local favourites such as Doug's Seafood Cafe have always been a great place to grab some fish and chips by the bay, in recent times Sandgate has developed its own real foodie scene, with great cafes, restaurants and even a laneway craft beer bar, the Cardigan Bar. Mr Deputy Speaker, I am sure you would be welcome down sometime. All of those establishments help to boost economic activity and local jobs. Those places add a great commercial vibrancy to Sandgate village.

Another local institution is the Bracken Ridge Tavern, which has been run by the White family for over 40 years. That family are icons in the history of family owned hotels in Queensland. The Bracken Ridge Tavern has moved on a bit from its Rum Jungle days, where I first experienced the Bracken Ridge Tavern. Now, with the Phoenix Bar, the Bracken Ridge Tavern is a real hub for the local community.

In addition, my electorate enjoys a fabulous natural environment that lends itself to the people in my electorate leading a healthy outdoor lifestyle. The Sandgate foreshore has always been a great place for exercise. Recently, it has become a key focal point for activities such as the increasingly popular Sandgate Parkrun, which is part of a worldwide institution that has found a perfect home on the bayside at Sandgate. The run up to Brighton and back is an integral part of a lot of people's Saturday mornings. Also, there is the Dawn Patrol, which is a great boot camp style initiative that promotes fitness, mateship and mental health for men. Just last Saturday, I had the great pleasure of sponsoring and presenting the prizes at the popular Sandgate Sunset Run, which is an offshoot of the Parkrun. This growing event, which in its second year, sees Sandgate come alive as teams of runners and walkers do laps of the War Memorial roundabout while spectators enjoy the festivities and cheer on the participants. Some competitors take the race very seriously while others adopt a more lighthearted approach, donning all manner of colourful costumes. In fact, the men's team that won the event did a bit of both by wearing their long-flowing mullet wigs while in two hours completing 40 kilometres around the Sandgate War Memorial roundabout.

Although Sandgate's sand flats and gentle waves will never be a surfing mecca, Moreton Bay and waterways such as Cabbage Tree Creek provide an aquatic playground for all manner of water sports, fishing and boating and a great opportunity for everyone to appreciate the beautiful environment that we enjoy in the Sandgate electorate. We have great advocates for Sandgate's local environment—groups like the Keep Sandgate Beautiful Association, which, since the late 1960s, has been an integral part of advocating for the environment in my local community.

Equally, inland from the bayside area of my electorate there are some newer communities—communities such as suburban Bracken Ridge and the emerging areas of Fitzgibbon and Taigum. I am particularly proud to have been involved in seeing the Fitzgibbon Chase community grow from nothing to being a model of a sustainable and affordable urban place. I oversaw the development of this master planned community when I was planning minister in the previous Labor government alongside the then local member Vicky Darling. I am proud of the community that has flourished there under the plans made by the former Urban Land Development Authority and its successor body, Economic Development Queensland. It is very pleasing to see in the recent state budget an additional \$11.9 million for affordable housing at Fitzgibbon Chase. In the recent months, I have also overseen the completion of the connection between Fitzgibbon Chase and Bracken Ridge via a completed Norris Road. This area and the newer suburbs of, as I say, Bracken Ridge and Taigum particularly provide a great place for first-time home owners and young families to raise their children.

While I am noting those families, it is important to note that my electorate boasts a number of great government and non-government schools. A whole range of primary schools, state schools and Catholic schools provide tremendous service to their local communities. There are terrific high schools such as Sandgate District State High School, Bracken Ridge State High School, St Patrick's College at Shorncliffe and St John Fisher College at Bracken Ridge.

As well as great educational services, the Sandgate electorate is a very active community. For instance, a whole lot of sporting associations and organisations play an important role in my community. The Sandgate Hawks is a great AFL club. Recently, that club has had some great victories in the under 13s and under 14s competition, including a goal kicked after the buzzer by young Matthew Stride, which has made him a local hero in the area. That was a great goal that was kicked by him after the bell. Over many years the Sandgate-Redcliffe District Cricket Club has been a really important part of the cricket culture of Brisbane. At its home ground, the Deagon Sportsground, the Sandgate-Redcliffe District Cricket Club has provided a great opportunity for a whole range of cricketers, from those in the very youngest levels right through to elite cricketers who have gone on from that club—both men and women—to be state representatives and Australian representatives.

Mr Costigan interjected.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I will get to my family later. The Brighton Bulldogs soccer club, the Ridge Hills soccer club at Bracken Ridge and the Brighton Roosters Rugby League club are also key parts of the community as is the large and growing Bracken Ridge Little Athletics. There is also a whole swathe of swimming clubs and, indeed, great local scout troops and guide groups that provide opportunities for young people. Just a touch outside of my electorate, but something that I am very passionate about and had a great opportunity during my absence over the past few years to become a lot more involved in is Northside Wizards Basketball. That association covers all of the northern suburbs of Brisbane. I was very proud to have played a role as a board member, and I now continue as a committee member, of Northside Wizards Basketball in their work to provide the opportunity for the great game of basketball to be available to young people and also some older people who get out there and still have a bit of a go.

I am increasingly immensely excited about the increasing cultural diversity of my community. My area across the north side is indeed a very diverse community, with a whole range of people from different ethnic backgrounds, but most particularly significant numbers of Filipino Australians and also Australians with a subcontinent background, particularly Indian and Nepalese people, people from Sri Lanka, and people from the Punjab. That is why it is so great that a whole lot of religious institutions in my electorate service these communities. They provide an opportunity for many people in those communities to celebrate their faith and their culture. Taigum is the home of St Paraskevi, the Greek Orthodox Church. Also in Taigum is the Sikh Gurdwara, which has been there for some time. A new Gurdwara will be built in the very near future. Also, at Deagon there is the Taoist Temple and just outside my electorate there is a Hindu temple at Boondall and a mosque at Bald Hills. Of course, those communities join the broad array of Christian churches, both Catholic and Protestant, that have played an important role in my community right across the north side for many, many years.

All of this feeds into and contributes to important social cohesion and capital and it also helps develop a level of community resilience. I think this has been ably demonstrated in the way the community has rallied and come together to support each other as well as those further afield. I have been pleased to be part of events and activities to support recovery efforts after the May flood event which very devastatingly affected areas of the north side of Brisbane. It can be devastating when your home or business is inundated and things need to be dealt with. It was wonderful to see the way the community came together to help those people. We also saw the community come together for a fundraiser to respond to the Nepalese earthquake and embrace the local Nepalese community and understand that there were many families who had fears for their extended families in Nepal. It was great to see the community come together to respond to that need. The next time we come together I will continue my remarks and wrap up on a couple of comments about the election on 31 January.

Resumed 1 December (see p. 3036)



Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (9.07 pm), continuing: As I was saying before I was interrupted on 14 October, I just want to conclude by saying a few words about the election campaign earlier this year that concluded with the election on 31 January. I want to commence by acknowledging the others who contested that election in the electorate of Sandgate. Kerry Millard, the former member for Sandgate, and the other candidates who contested that election all did so in the best and most positive of spirits. It always remains one of the great tests in standards of our democracy that all of these contests of ideas and contests of holding the great privilege and opportunity to be a representative in this place are done in largely, as I see it, the best of possible spirits.

That has certainly been my experience and I want to thank those other contestants of the election on 31 January in the electorate of Sandgate for the attitude which they took into the election and the way in which it was conducted. I think that was emblematic on the last day of the prepoll, when our campaign teams got together as we were helping each other pack down our gear and had a photograph taken of us all together in an acknowledgment that we had all worked together on supporting the festival of democracy in the electorate of Sandgate.

By way of reference to that festival of democracy, I acknowledge that on this occasion it resulted in an outcome that some people have suggested was somehow extraordinary, an amazing turnaround, an amazing outcome. My analysis is that the election result on 31 January 2015 showed the basis of politics in Queensland as it has been over the past 25 years: the Labor Party and the conservative parties are about even and there is an interesting mix of others to pepper the meal. That is why we must understand that the March 2012 election result was an aberration—an aberration that the people of Queensland realised was going to deliver bad government, where there was arrogance and an inability to listen and understand. That was my experience from the electors in the electorate of Sandgate, particularly around the totemic issue of the treatment of Eventide.

I want to thank all the members of my campaign team who supported me and all of the members of the other Labor Party branches and other supporters who supported my campaign. I particularly want to acknowledge the great work of my campaign manager, Jared Cassidy, who, since the election, has become Councillor Jared Cassidy in the Brisbane City Council.

I also want to thank and acknowledge the role my family have played in supporting me to come back to this House and be part of this great opportunity. In 2006, in my first speech in this place, I acknowledged the delight and inspiration that I received from my three young children. They are not so little anymore, but they remain a great inspiration.