




Speech By
Bruce Saunders

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

Record of Proceedings, 15 September 2016

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Maryborough Electorate

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (2.44 pm): They say that a week is a long time in politics. Eighteen months has gone very quickly since the Palaszczuk government was elected and I was elected the member for Maryborough, but it has been a great 18 months for the electorate of Maryborough.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: The electorate has had 18 years of neglect, but the last 18 months has been a great ride. People are smiling because we are getting front-line services reinstated. I take the interjection from the health minister because—

Mr Rickuss interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: I will take that interjection, too, from the member for Lockyer, because if members saw what was happening in Maryborough prior to the Palaszczuk government coming to power they would have been horrified. Those opposite talk about the Labor Party being in the south-east corner. No-one opposite knew how to get to Maryborough—and they had a local sitting member—so that is how bad it was. Returning to the health minister in the chamber, pathology services have been reinstated at the hospital. We know that the government is doing something right when there was a story in the *Fraser Coast Chronicle* yesterday saying that there is too much roadworks going on in the electorate. I have been in politics a long time, but I have never heard of people complaining about the roadworks that are happening in a state electorate—and that is because of the Palaszczuk government getting on and delivering services and ensuring that regional Queensland is not forgotten, and that is what is happening in the great city of Maryborough.

As I walk around the streets and talk to people I note that we have lights at St Helens school, which we were told could never happen, and the interchange coming into Maryborough is being funded by the federal government. That is strange: it cannot do the M1, but it has funded the Maryborough interchange 80-20. Those opposite have done a lot of things to the Maryborough electorate. They brought the great city to its knees, but we are rebuilding it. The Palaszczuk government is leading the way. Businesses in my electorate are telling me that their turnover has never been better after the three years of that dark, dismal day when the curtains were pulled around Queensland with the Newman government and we had 'Tiny Tim'. I will retract that—the member for Clayfield. We had three dark years, but I can honestly report to the House that thanks to the Palaszczuk Labor government and this great cabinet we are finally back on track and moving forward. The city of Maryborough will become what it used to be thanks to the Palaszczuk Labor government.