



Speech By  
**Bruce Saunders**


**MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH**

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Record of Proceedings, 29 November 2016

**MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Rural and Regional Queensland**

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (12.18 pm): Let me outline to the House the difference 22 months makes in rural and regional Queensland. Let me talk about last Thursday when the Premier of this great state visited Maryborough. What a warm reception. Besides being the hottest November day in Maryborough in history the people came out in their droves to talk to the Premier. This is the difference between the Palaszczuk Labor government and the prior LNP government: the last time the LNP Premier was in town he drove in from the airport, went to an hotel, poured a beer and disappeared in 45 minutes. Our Premier walked the street for hours talking to people, listening to people.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** Our Premier, the Labor Premier, the Premier of Queensland spoke. We are hearing from the peanut gallery and the lightweights in the opposition because they are embarrassed and I will tell members why. The last time the Leader of the Opposition came to Maryborough with the Deputy Leader, they snuck in early in the morning, went to A Spoon Full of Sugar, had a cup of coffee, never spoke to anyone, went over to MSF—

**Mrs Frecklington:** What are you talking about?

**Mr SAUNDERS:** Yes, you did.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I rise to a point of order. The member for Maryborough is clearly misleading the House and I ask that he withdraw.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): There is no point of order.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I rise to a point of order. I find the comments from the member for Maryborough offensive and I ask that he withdraw.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Did the member refer to you in any way personally?

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Yes, he did. He referred to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. That is my position so that is me personally.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I withdraw, with my humblest apologies. The Premier came to Maryborough—

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Nanango, please cease your interjections.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** The Premier came to Maryborough and she listened to people, which contrasts with what we saw when the former LNP premier, Campbell Newman, came to town. Our programs are working. More jobs are being created in rural Queensland. Skilling Queenslanders for Work is a great program that is getting people back into work, but was cut by the previous LNP government.

**Ms Pease:** Shame!

**Mr SAUNDERS:** Shame on them! I take that interjection from the member for Lytton. The decision by the previous government to cut the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program was a terrible decision. When we look at this mediocre opposition—

**Ms Pease:** Very, very mediocre.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I take that interjection. Those are not my words; those are the words of one of their own. If that is what one of their own thinks of them, what must the general public think of them?

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! There are so many interjections that I cannot even tell who is making them. More to the point, I cannot hear the member for Maryborough. Members, please keep your interjections to a minimum.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** Today in the House the Premier spoke about visiting the sawmill and talking to two young gentlemen who have been given a chance in life there. It was great to watch the interaction between the people's Premier and those young men, as they talked about their futures and what they plan to do. Those two young men have the same aspirations as a lot of people in this great state: they want a house, a car and a job. The Palaszczuk Labor government has put them on the road to success. We have given them jobs. They are on the highway to success, thanks to the Labor government and Skilling Queenslanders for Work, which is one of the best programs I have seen. Throughout my electorate I have been to graduation ceremonies for Skilling Queenslanders for Work courses run by very reputable RTOs. The beaming smiles on the faces of people who have completed courses is wonderful to see. Those people are now working. We are getting people back into work. The jobs program is getting the people of regional Queensland back into jobs.

Only a Labor government does that. A Labor government provides services. We hear from the mediocre opposition. I am still trying to work out what is going on on the other side of the House. We have the Libs, we have the Nats, we have the One Nation Nats and we have members who are talking about jumping ship from the other side to One Nation. I am confused. Do we have the bluebloods and the Libs? Where are we with the opposition?

**Mr Mander:** We're coming after you, Bruce.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I will take that interjection from the member for Everton and I shall tell the House why. If that is the standard coming after me, I have nothing to worry about. I will be re-elected with a 10 per cent majority. If that is the best that they can produce, by God they are in trouble! It is no wonder that they are being called mediocre, because if that is the best that they can produce then I am safe. I will not have to book any advertising for my election campaign, thanks to the member for Everton. The people of Maryborough thank the Premier for coming. She is a people's premier.