




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR KALLANGUR

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Kallangur Electorate, Events

 **Mr KING** (Kallangur—ALP) (12.20 pm): I rise today to make a contribution regarding an exciting event which occurred in my electorate of Kallangur over the weekend of 5 March. We had what I am led to believe is the first community cabinet ever held in Kallangur. My colleague Nikki Boyd co-hosted this event, which had several elements held in her neighbouring seat of Pine Rivers. There is no argument that we are, at least geographically, in the centre of the one of the fastest growing regions in Queensland. In fact, the Moreton Bay region is one of the fastest growing regions in Australia. There is no doubt that my community faces many challenges and opportunities that arise from this growth. How we rise to meet and make the most of these challenges and opportunities is important to each and every one of us in my electorate.

Having the chance for our community to gather and speak directly to our government ministers and the senior members of the departments they lead was an incredible opportunity to have the issues that matter and the challenges and opportunities that we face put before the decision-makers. We had the chance to discuss the plans for our very own regional university on the old Petrie paper mill site, which will transform our area forever. The first intake of students is expected in 2020. The campus will cater for up to 10,000 students in the first 10 years. The site is expected to create 2,800 ongoing jobs. This, coupled with its close proximity to public transport, means that it will be a great asset to our community and is a cause of excitement for our residents.

During the community cabinet, members of the community were able to speak to government ministers about the progress of the long-awaited Moreton Bay Rail Link, which is a vital piece of transport infrastructure that our Labor government is delivering in my region. We were able to talk about the issues, both good and bad, that this project has brought to our area. Some were able to express the things that frustrate us, such as the need for further improvements to infrastructure, public transport and better roads and services, which are also very important to communities such as ours. Our Kallangur community cabinet included some long-awaited announcements. With our mayor, Allan Sutherland, we were able to announce that we are putting over \$300,000 towards new headquarters for the Petrie SES in Kallangur at Murrumba Downs. This site, which is owned by the council, is much closer to major transport corridors and is greatly appreciated by the SES, whose current home is cramped, outgrown and has certainly been restricting membership growth in the SES in the area. The new premises has existing infrastructure for training and the storage of rescue equipment, including their flood boat.

As many in this place would know, I have been a strong and some would say annoyingly persistent advocate for an overdue upgrade to the Dakabin rail station. To say that my community and I were happy with the announcement of an options study plan for this vital upgrade is an understatement. There have been many local champions for works on this station over successive

government terms and many band-aids applied to it. The station has been used by some as a political tool, and I am very pleased that we are not playing into adding further band-aids. We are now going to have a real look at just what the needs are for this piece of infrastructure in a very quickly growing area.

We obviously need to address the lack of disability access, which was partially looked at in early 2014. At that time the stairs over the rail line were replaced with stairs instead of a wheelchair-friendly option, the reason for which has always mystified me. We need to look at whether the station is suitable in its current location due to very limited parking options. The car parking which is available is not capable of coping with even a third of the vehicles which are parked along the roadway on both sides of the station on a daily basis. This is a very dangerous situation and there will be an accident one day. It is a situation that definitely needs addressing. There is also a lack of safe access from one side of the station to the other between Narangba and Thompson roads, which has been for many years a dangerous height-restricted single-lane underpass. This study can explore options to address all of these issues while consulting with my community as well so we get the best outcome regarding this outdated and over-utilised station.

To see the exchanges that I saw and sat in over the weekend was terrific. I say thank you to each and every resident who contributed to making the day so successful. These community cabinets make a difference and whilst they are incredibly hard work, they are really worth it. These community cabinets are further proof that the Palaszczuk government is listening to the people of Queensland and the people of my electorate.