




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

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MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

National Red Balloon Day; Maryborough Electorate; Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (1.01 pm): Firstly, I would like to acknowledge all the firefighters on this National Red Balloon Day. I would like to congratulate them, because they are marvellous people in our communities. I would like to thank them for the great job they do in getting around in their red trucks to keep the residents of Queensland safe, including the fine residents of that great Queensland city of Maryborough.

I would like to talk about the achievements of the Palaszczuk government and what it has done for my electorate over the past two years. The member for Gladstone talked about mayors and councils. I really think the member for Nanango should come up and talk to the Fraser Coast Regional Council about the \$12.5 million that is going to benefit the Fraser Coast Regional Council area, which includes Maryborough. That funding has created a lot of work and kept people in employment—a lot of job creation projects that would not have happened if they were not brought forward under a three-year plan.

One of those projects is the revitalisation of the Maryborough CBD. Over countless years, the Maryborough CBD was neglected. Through this money the footpaths will be brought up to standard, which will bring people and shops back to the CBD. Already people have been talking to shop owners about opening up shops in the CBD. Along with that revitalisation of the Maryborough CBD is the new pontoon that will be put in the Mary River. That pontoon will be used to facilitate tourist boats coming up the river which, in turn, will bring tourists to the Maryborough CBD.

The other big announcement for Maryborough was the \$1.8 million upgrade to Queen's Park. It is the jewel in the crown in Wide Bay. It is a fantastic park but, over the years, owing to a lack of money it has been neglected. Who delivered the money to upgrade this park with better lighting, which will make the park family friendly? The Palaszczuk Labor government. In case the members opposite did not hear that, I will repeat that: the Palaszczuk Labor government. There is an allocation of \$1.8 million for better lighting for Queen's Park, which will make the park better for families. On a hot night in Maryborough, parents will be able to go into the park with their children and have a great time because there will be lighting and better seating. That is all being delivered by a Palaszczuk Labor government.

Mr Pyne interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: I take that interjection from the member for Cairns, who said that the local member has been the best one for years.

Mr Madden: That wasn't exactly what he said.

Mr SAUNDERS: I say to the member for Ipswich West that I heard it with my own ears. Another great thing that has happened in Maryborough is the reopening of TAFE. I see the minister sitting there. The other day in the main street I got a hug from a lady whose daughter is able to go back to TAFE in Maryborough. Otherwise, she would have had to leave the city. She is staying at home, living with her family.

Ms Pease: Spending money in Maryborough.

Mr SAUNDERS: I take that interjection from the member for Lytton. She is spending money in the community. That TAFE is a great benefit to my community. The restoration of TAFE is bringing education levels up to standard right across the state and I thank the minister for that.

After the devastating cuts that that hospital received from the three years of the LNP, the budget for my local hospital has been increased year after year by the Palaszczuk Labor government. The hospital has pathology services restored, which was a Palaszczuk Labor government initiative. Money has been spent on the hospital and services are improving daily.

Money has also been spent on the schools to lift educational standards. The maintenance that has been carried out on school buildings is phenomenal. Once again, who delivered it? The Palaszczuk Labor government. The members of the opposition say that this government is asleep at the wheel. I ask the members opposite: if this government is asleep at the wheel, what happened to their government for three years? The Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering. It is unbelievable what is happening in my electorate and in other electorates throughout Queensland. I talk to people throughout Queensland and they tell me that they are very happy with the Palaszczuk Labor government. From Longreach, to Mount Isa, to Townsville, to Yeppoon, people are telling me that they are very happy with this government and what a breath of fresh air it has brought to Queensland over the past two years and continues to do so.

In my electorate, the Burrum Heads-Pialba Road was a dangerous road. Who fixed this road? The Palaszczuk Labor government. I would like to thank the Minister for Main Roads, the member for Yeerongpilly, for his great work. The minister came up to my area and drove along the road with the engineers and saw the problems firsthand. He then delivered. He came back and said, 'This road has to be fixed, because it is a major feeder road in the Maryborough electorate.'

Queensland is on the move and it is moving in the right direction because of the Palaszczuk Labor government. We will continue to put Queensland on the right track.