



Speech By
Bruce Saunders

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

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ADJOURNMENT

Howard Police Station

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (8.53 pm): Last Wednesday in the great electorate of Maryborough I had the privilege to represent the police and emergency services minister and turn the first sod on the brand-new fire and police station at Howard, the \$10 million facility delivered by the Palaszczuk Labor government. We must always remember that Labor always builds in regional Queensland. That is what this great party has done throughout its history.

It was fantastic to turn the first sod in constructing the new facility. This facility replaces a police station and courthouse that was built in 1893. It is certainly too small for modern policing. One thing that concerned me when I was first elected was the size of the police station. We were expecting police to work out of this building, which was absolutely horrendous. During a major and violent domestic violence episode we sent police out on the beat without proper radio contact. They had no contact from the station. I went in to bat for the Howard community. As I said, Labor always builds for the regions. This is what the Palaszczuk government does. We are putting resources back into regional Queensland.

Howard is a small community in my electorate. I thank Faye Whiffin from the Howard community centre. It is fair to say that Faye is not a Labor supporter, but we work very hard together. Faye is a great lady. We have a great respect for one another and work very well together. The other person I acknowledge from the Howard community is Ricky Rowland. Ricky does a lot of volunteering for the community. He is in the rural fires and the progress association. He is a family man and a great community asset. His family has been living in Torbanlea for over 100 years. The family knows the region very well.

With the community support, and of course with the support of this great Labor government, we have delivered once again for regional Queensland. This \$10 million facility will enhance policing and fire services in the Burrum district, one of the fastest growing areas in my electorate. It is really great to be part of a government that does not cut, sack and sell but delivers for the community and ensures the community gets the services it needs. As I keep saying, Labor builds while those on the other side tear down. They are good white ants in that they just chop everything away. The people of Howard, Torbanlea, Burrum Heads, Craginsh and Toogoom are grateful to the Palaszczuk government that delivers for regional Queensland.