



Speech By  
**Bruce Saunders**


**MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH**

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Record of Proceedings, 10 October 2017

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Maryborough Electorate, Rural Firefighters; Roadworks**

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (12.20 pm): I also want to congratulate all of the rural fireys for the great job that they do in the community, and none more so than in the great electorate of Maryborough. There are quite a few rural fireys in the area and some of them are very good friends of mine. In fact, one of my office staff is in the Brooweena rural fireys and I know that he plays a very active part in the rural fireys.

Today I rise to tell everyone about the great roadworks that are happening in the Maryborough electorate.

**Ms Boyd:** 'Bitumen Bruce'!

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I take that interjection from the member for Pine Rivers. I have been called worse names, but 'Bitumen Bruce' I will take and wear proudly. I want to give members the difference between the Newman-Nicholls government, or the Newman government—whatever you want to call it, it was a disaster—and the Palaszczuk Labor government. In the Maryborough electorate in 2014-15 \$19.8 million was spent on roadworks. In 2015-16—the first budget from this Treasurer—\$25.9 million was spent in the electorate of Maryborough on roadworks and in 2016-17 it was \$53.9 million, and those figures are direct from TMR. That is the difference—that is, from \$19.8 million under the Newman LNP government to \$53.9 million under the Palaszczuk Labor government.

When driving around the Maryborough electorate, people can see the changes and can see the roadworks happening. I will give the House an example. At St Helens State School traffic lights have been installed. It was an absolute disaster prior to the Labor government coming to power. What did the Palaszczuk Labor government do? We put traffic lights in there and have made it so much safer for parents and grandparents to pick up children and drop children off and for the teachers to go to work every day. That is what the Palaszczuk government does and has been doing for regional Queensland—that is, improving the lives of regional Queenslanders. I refer to the Torbanlea State School where a causeway was an ongoing problem. In the first 16 months of the Palaszczuk Labor government—once again—we delivered and fixed that causeway so that it makes it much easier for the children coming and going to school in that they do not get flooded out and buses do not have to travel through water. That is what we on this side of the House do: we care about what happens to our constituents in our seats.

I turn to the Urraween Road and Maryborough road intersection, one of the most dangerous intersections in the Wide Bay. Who put up the \$12 million to fix that?

**Mr Harper:** The Labor government.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** The Labor government; I take the interjection from the member for Thuringowa. Once again it was a Labor government that put the money up to fix this intersection. That work is in progress and it is going to be opened very shortly. I drive through that intersection probably once or

twice a week and you can see what is going to happen there with the traffic lights and the turning lanes. That is going to make that intersection one of the safest intersections in Queensland. The Tinana interchange coming in to the great city of Maryborough is a federal and state government investment, with 80 per cent from the federal government. I have to congratulate the federal government for that and I work well with the federal member. We got the money to do the interchange. That makes it safer to come into the Fraser Coast, particularly Maryborough.

These are some of the road projects that we are doing right across Queensland. When people travel the roads around the state, as I often do, they can see that the Palaszczuk Labor government is spending money on roads. As I said, in 2014 it was \$19.8 million in the Maryborough electorate. When we fast forward to 2016 under a Labor government delivering for regional Queensland, that has increased to \$53.9 million. That has made a massive difference to people living in my electorate. For instance, Pialba Burrum Heads Road had not had money spent on it for years. We have upgraded turning lanes there, resurfaced the road in areas and lowered the speed limit because there was an horrific crash there prior to Christmas 2016. These things just did not miraculously happen. This all happened because of one reason—because of a Palaszczuk Labor government delivering for regional Queensland. We are not cutting, we are not selling and we are not sacking. Rather, as a government we are delivering for regional Queensland. People can see that and they are very happy with what this government is doing and what we are doing for the road networks in the Maryborough electorate.