




Speech By
Nikki Boyd

MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

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MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Pine Rivers Electorate

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (12.33 pm): I rise today to report on progress I have made fighting for my local electorate. People in my electorate are not unreasonable—it is the basics that make a difference in their lives. They want to know that they can get a good job with fair pay and be treated with dignity. They want to spend as little time and money as possible travelling to and from that job. They want to know that their family is safe, with a place to call home that will not break the budget, with opportunities for their children and a good health system just in case the worst should happen. I know what my community want because they are the same things that I want in my life, and they are the things that provoked me to run to represent Pine Rivers in this place.

In my electorate I am proud to report that we have seen a drop in unemployment. Government programs like reducing the burden of payroll tax on business, incentives for local apprentices and the local jobs expos that I have hosted have helped, but more than that there is an attitude of confidence back in the Queensland economy that was not there under the previous government. In my community I see past the bureaucratic jargon to the difference that programs make in real people's lives. In my electorate, YDF, funded by this government's Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, takes the most marginalised young people and supports them to get their lives back on track and into the workforce and away from our justice system. This program puts \$8 back into the economy for every dollar invested in the program and it fights crime at the same time. Skilling Queenslanders for Work is a great Labor program delivered by this Labor government.

Our Fairer Fares initiative means real cost-of-living reductions for commuters. This is the biggest overhaul in public transport fees in over a decade. Fewer cars means less congestion and that means more time at home with the kids and less time sitting in traffic. A commuter travelling from Strathpine station to the CBD will be saving just under \$900 a year. Labor believes in public transport. That is why we deliver Labor programs like this in government.

My electorate has historically had a lower average income than the rest of Queensland. Every dollar counts and especially for those doing it tough in Pine Rivers. That is why under our government the electricity rebate has been extended to an additional 157,000 low-income Queenslanders who will save \$330 a year on their energy bills. Labor feels their pain because most of us at one time or another have been right where they are. It is only Labor that delivers policies that ease the cost of living.

I relied on the First Home Owners' Grant to be able to enter the property market and purchase my first home. That is why it means a lot to me to be part of a government that has seen the Queensland First Home Owners' Grant increased to \$20,000. This initiative will see Queenslanders realise their dream of owning their first home too.

Seeing the cuts firsthand under the LNP government was the single most compelling thing in my decision to contest the last election. I am proud that our government in 2015-16 created 1,940 jobs for nurses, 651 jobs for doctors, 479 jobs for health professionals and 54 jobs for paramedics. I am proud

of the health jobs that we have created, but I am particularly proud to be part of a party that opposes the sale of Medicare and supports bulk-billing. If you get sick in Queensland, you better hope that there is a Labor government in power.

The economy of the future will be defined by how we compete with our skills in a global marketplace. We literally cannot afford to lose the skills arms race. When last in power Labor introduced prep and now we complete the full promise of that program with compulsory prep starting next year. We have created an extra 940 jobs for teachers and teacher aides, meaning smaller class sizes and more individual support. Locally, I note federal Labor's funding commitment for a Petrie university and skills training centre at the last federal election—so far not matched by the Turnbull government. I will continue to fight for a university for the people of my electorate, because we refuse to get left behind.

I could go on: the major arterial road upgrades in our area promised, funded and being delivered by Labor; the rail bridge upgrades; the Strathpine railway station upgrade; the extra police officers and equipment like body worn cameras at Petrie station; the fair but effective organised crime legislation; the domestic violence projects funded under this government—all hallmarks of a Labor government connected with the communities' needs, making a positive difference in the lives of everyday Queenslanders, focused on our state's future.