




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Maryborough Electorate

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (2.36 pm): I rise to give a snapshot of the Maryborough electorate since the Palaszczuk government came to power in 2015—and what a difference! First, I will talk about the Maryborough Hospital. The Maryborough Hospital has had significant upgrades since the Palaszczuk government came to power. That is what the Palaszczuk government is doing—reinvesting in regional Queensland.

I see the former minister for health here today. I put on the record my thanks to him for his great support for the Maryborough Hospital when he was the health minister. He started the ball rolling with all of the upgrades and his continual support of the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service district. The current health minister, the member for Murrumba, has picked up the ball and run with it as well. It is all good news for the Maryborough Hospital.

While I am on my feet talking about the Maryborough Hospital, on 31 August I was privileged to go with the CEO of the WBHHS and flick on the switch for the new CT scanner for the Maryborough Hospital. That CT scanner will make a huge difference to the people of Maryborough. This CT scanner was an LNP election promise in 2012. They promised it but did they deliver it? No! It was the Palaszczuk government that delivered the CT scanner in 2018. It was an election promise in 2017 and we delivered it in 2018. That is how quickly we on this side of the House act in regional Queensland.

This CT scanner will save 500 people a year going to Hervey Bay for CT scans. The big thing about that besides inconvenience is that it costs \$1,200 every time they have to send a patient to Hervey Bay. It took staff away from the hospital and it tied up resources. Now with this investment from the Palaszczuk Labor government we have a great CT scanner in the hospital. Not only that, the \$10 million upgrade to the A&E is on track. It started with the removal of the asbestos from the building. That is what this government is doing.

We hear from that side of the House all the time that we are not delivering. Maybe they should come and have a look at what we are delivering in Maryborough. I would also like to thank the chair of the WBHHS, Peta Jamieson, and her board. I have a fantastic board. There are two great members from the Maryborough electorate in Simone Xouris and Trevor Dixon, who work well with the CEO. We are delivering great health care in the Maryborough electorate. I am proud to say that since the Palaszczuk government came to power the Maryborough Hospital has gone ahead in leaps and bounds.

When looking around the Maryborough electorate we see the Works for Queensland projects happening in the Maryborough CBD. The Maryborough CBD was in all sorts of trouble until the Palaszczuk government came in with the Works for Queensland program. With Works for Queensland working in with the Fraser Coast Regional Council, the footpaths are being done up and the CBD looks absolutely brilliant now.

You know as a government when you are doing something right. A few weeks ago I was walking to the markets and a lady came up to me on a wheelie walker. Since the Palaszczuk government came to power, she has been able to come into the CBD because we have new footpaths and new parking bays. That is what we do: we improve the lives of people.

Then we move on to Howard and Torbanlea. The Palaszczuk government is investing about \$10 million into a new Howard police station and fire station. If members want to see a great police station in a regional town, they should come and have a look at Howard. I see the police minister nodding. It is an absolutely fantastic facility.

Mr Ryan interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: I take the interjection from the police minister. It is a modern-day police station. This station replaced a station that was built in 1893, and it is absolutely magnificent. We have a great fire station beside it. We will have rural fire and eventually we will move up to an auxiliary station there. The SES is involved also. This will service the Burrum district for the next 40 years or so. It is a fantastic facility. I was happy to drive past it the other day. I took a photo of it and posted it on Facebook. Everyone in Howard is jumping up and down and cannot wait for it to open.

Another thing happening in the city of Maryborough is the \$4.5 million performing arts theatre at Maryborough State High School. I was at Maryborough State High School on the weekend for the HPV technology challenge. What a great asset this building is going to be not only for Maryborough State High School but for all schools in the Maryborough electorate. This is what the Palaszczuk government is doing. We are delivering for regional Queensland and creating jobs. We are not being negative Nellies.