




Speech By
Charis Mullen

MEMBER FOR JORDAN

Record of Proceedings, 20 March 2018

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Governing from the Regions

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.43 pm): The Palaszczuk government is governing for all of Queensland, no matter where they live. It was an honour to welcome the Premier and the entire Queensland cabinet to one of my electorate's regions. The Governing from the Regions program came to Ipswich and I took full advantage of having our ministers in town. The city not only hosted last week's cabinet meeting but provided the chance for our Premier and ministers to meet directly with local residents and stakeholders to hear their concerns and issues. It was also a week-long opportunity to highlight some of the significant commitments that our government has made to jobs, infrastructure and services in the Ipswich region.

My electorate of Jordan has benefited from Governing from the Regions with several key events and opportunities being held. I was pleased to be able to invite some of our community and business leaders from Gales, Camira and greater Springfield to the government reception last Sunday evening, affording them a fantastic opportunity to advocate on key issues directly with ministers. This was extended even further on Tuesday night with an open invitation to the general public to attend a town hall meeting and ask questions directly of the Premier and ministers. I was glad to see that questions relating to local employment, health, public transport, roads and school funding got an airing. Our Premier and ministers did not shy away from any issues raised. These are issues that are particularly important in my electorate of Jordan, which includes the fastest growing areas of Ipswich.

I was also pleased to be able to invite some of our ministers to join me in greater Springfield to meet with some of our local schools, businesses and organisations. The Minister for Education joined me for a cyber safety workshop with Year 10 students from Springfield Central State High School delivered by the Department of Education's Cybersafety and Reputation Management Unit. With the government's increased focus on the prevention of cyberbullying, educational workshops like this are vital in ensuring young people are being protected and also managing their online footprint and behaviour in this new digital age.

Speaking of encouraging good behaviour, I was also joined by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads to chat to year 6 students at Springfield Central State School about the Queensland government's Step Up program, a program encouraging positive behaviour on buses that ensures the safety of all students, other passengers and the driver. I was pleased to see how engaged the students were, peppering us with many questions about bus travel including, 'What happens if you don't have enough money on your card?', and, 'Where do buses go at night?' I thought they were pretty good questions. I say thank you to both Leon Proud and Angela Gooley, the principals of the Springfield Central schools for inviting us to meet with their students.

One of the things that I enjoy the most is introducing members of our government to some of our fantastic small businesses in the Jordan electorate. It was a real pleasure to welcome the Minister for Small Business to meet Steve and Ken from Two Butchers, a local butcher shop, who were successful

applicants in the Queensland government's Small Business Digital Grants. They spoke to us about how their grant has allowed them to really develop their online presence, reaching many more customers. The minister took the opportunity to not only open the latest round of Small Business Digital Grants that day but also fill an esky with some fantastic T-bones from Two Butchers. We truly do support small business; we do not just talk about it.

Later that same day, the police minister dropped in to the Orion shopping centre and met with local shoppers to discuss community safety, including with members of our wonderful Augustine Heights Neighbourhood Watch and volunteers in policing. The health minister joined me along with key health industry stakeholders for a lunch to discuss the exciting Health City initiatives in greater Springfield. Health will be a growth industry in our region. The minister was also provided with the opportunity to tour the Mater Private Hospital in Springfield Central, a truly impressive hospital operation that is already providing quality health care and treatments for our locals.

I was also pleased to see our government's continued commitment to the Ipswich Hospital, with \$124.4 million for the stage 1A redevelopment, which will include a new mental health unit, an MRI suite as well as an integrated community healthcare centre and outpatient facilities. The cherry on the top was, of course, the fantastic announcement of the Land 400 contract coming to Ipswich. I know, we know and the people of Ipswich know that without the Queensland government's intervention that contract would have gone to Victoria. Which of those Victorian companies would the member for Nanango be supporting? I think the people of Ipswich know that we have their back on this contract and the jobs that this will create.

It was certainly a busy week governing from the regions covering employment, small business, education, transport and health. This is not a short-term obligation; the Palaszczuk government has a long-term vision and commitment to this region that extends beyond just a week and highlights the importance that our government places in Ipswich and its people.