




Speech By  
**Jarrold Bleijie**

**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

---

Record of Proceedings, 13 November 2018

**ADDRESS-IN-REPLY**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (3.19 pm): Today, I reconfirm my allegiance to our Queen, Elizabeth II, by the grace of God, Queen of Australia, her realms and territories, head of the Commonwealth, Queen of Queensland. I also want to acknowledge His Excellency the Governor in opening the 56th Parliament of Queensland and express my disappointment to His Excellency that it has taken a year for these speeches to be completed.

I am humbled and honoured to continue serving the electorate and the people of Kawana, although the electorate is a little different following the redistribution that occurred in 2017. Sadly, with the redistribution, I no longer represent the good people of Sippy Downs or Palmview, whom I have enjoyed getting to know since 2009. Of course, there are many amazing community organisations and groups within those areas made up of very generous individuals who continue their invaluable and selfless work to make my region a better place. I have no doubt that my colleague Brent Mickelberg, the member for Buderim, will continue to be a fierce advocate in parliament and beyond for the people of Palmview and Sippy Downs. I wish him and the residents of Sippy Downs and Palmview, whom I have enjoyed representing since 2009, all the best.

Although I have farewelled Sippy Downs and Palmview, I am delighted to represent now not only those residents who live on the western side of Nicklin Way in Currimundi but all the residents who reside on either side of Nicklin Way in this great suburb. I have many great and fond memories of taking my children to Currimundi Lake, to Coco's and the shops at the mouth of Currimundi Lake. It is a beautiful part of the Kawana electorate and the broader Sunshine Coast region. Again, there are many wonderful community based organisations in Currimundi with whom I have worked and look forward to continuing to support and work with, particularly the Currimundi Catchment Care Group and Friends of Currimundi Lake.

As I said, I feel extremely privileged to again be elected to this 56th Parliament as the member for Kawana, a position that I have now held since 2009. I have always affirmed that, as representatives for our constituents and electorates, we have an obligation to vote for policy and legislation that we believe is in the best interests of our constituents and, more broadly, the people of Queensland. I will continue to do that to the best of my ability.

I would like to acknowledge my former colleagues who no longer have the enormous privilege of representing their fellow Queenslanders in this parliament. I wish each former member the very best in whatever capacity their talents, interests and skills lead them. I would also like to welcome my new colleagues, particularly those representing electorates on the Sunshine Coast, including Dan Purdie, Marty Hunt and Brent Mickelberg.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the positive interjections from said members. Of course, I also welcome Simone Wilson to the electorate of Pumicestone.

The last election was another hard-fought campaign. It is a team effort in the Kawana electorate. The ongoing support that I receive from my campaign team and volunteers, as well as my family, is unrelenting and profound. Whilst I am speaking of my family, I thank my beautiful wife, Sally, and our three wonderful kids, Taylor, Madison and Jasper, for their support and unconditional love. Without this love and support I know that I would struggle to fulfil the responsibilities that I have to my electorate and the people of Queensland.

Recently, in a speech my wife made the point that partners of members of parliament often represent them and do their jobs when we are at parliament, such as at speech nights. My wife remarked that she has judged talent quests, laid wreathes and handed out awards to schoolkids. She asked in what other professions do partners do this? For instance, if an electrician cannot go to a job site, does that electrician send their unqualified partner to do the electrical work? If a lawyer cannot attend the Supreme Court, does that lawyer send their unqualified partner to the Supreme Court? The answer is no but, of course, we have partners, or spouses, who have not signed up for this—we signed up for this job—but who many times at the drop of a hat are helping us and doing our job when we are in parliament. It is a family job.

I would like to thank my parents, Peter and Christine. They very much like their local member for Glass House. They continue to provide guidance and support to Sally and me and their three grandchildren, who just adore them. To my extended family, including my in-laws, Julie and Alan Lennox, I thank them for their support, particularly over the past three years, and for always keeping me grounded with their honest and considered advice.

I must thank my legendary campaign team and the Kawana branch and SEC members for their hard work, perseverance and commitment, for without their tireless efforts and work I would not have had the boost in the vote in the Kawana electorate that we achieved. I acknowledge my Kawana campaign director, Mr Nathan Ruhle, and everyone involved in the Kawana campaign, particularly those members who have been with me since 2009. Those members are all too familiar with my love of grassroots campaigning. I thank those volunteers for wearing out the soles of their shoes, getting up in the early hours of the morning to set up on polling day, and manning the booths with the same energy, passion, endurance and enthusiasm that they have, and I have witnessed, since 2009. I never for a day take for granted my position in this House as a representative of the people of the Kawana electorate and I feel very blessed and fortunate to have a team that offers such support and tenacity on the campaign trail. In the Kawana electorate, we never stop working for the community.

I mentioned grassroots campaigning. For the Kawana electorate, the last election was really an election based on local issues: fixing traffic congestion on Nicklin Way by delivering the Mooloolah River interchange and upgrading the Caloundra Road intersection to stop it turning into a car park in peak hours and on weekends. I acknowledge the efforts of Mr Deputy Speaker, the member for Caloundra, in getting the congestion issues on Caloundra Road to the attention of the government. Another local issue was fixing congestion issues around Meridan State College to ensure the safety of students. These are just a few of the LNP election commitments that remain overlooked by this Labor government and that perhaps remain as the highest priority issues for local residents who have to drive on these roads day in, day out. The LNP even promised to fix local roads that the Sunshine Coast Council has failed to do, such as the congestion on the road at Meridan State College.

Kawana is a great electorate. Certainly, I would claim that it is the best on the Sunshine Coast and, indeed, in Queensland. It is home to the suburbs of Minyama, Buddina, Parrearra, Birtinya, Warana, Bokarina, Wurtulla, Meridan Plains, Currimundi, Aroona and Little Mountain. The Kawana electorate enjoys beautiful beaches with rich soft sand and beautiful waterways. Unfortunately, after finally accepting that my sea legs are probably more suited to the calm of the estuary, I have had to downgrade my Haines Hunter to a more modest tinnie. However, there is nothing that my family loves more than exploring my electorate's beautiful beaches, waterways and coastline, whether that be in our boat or four-wheel drive.

The Kawana electorate boasts the brand-new Sunshine Coast University Hospital and some amazing local schools: Talara Primary College, Meridan State College, Pacific Lutheran College, Buddina State School, Kawana Waters State College and Currimundi State School. I must make special mention and welcome Currimundi State School principal, Terry Janz, and his team. As a result of the redistribution, I inherited Currimundi State School from my colleague the member for Caloundra and that school is now part of the Kawana electorate. Earlier this year, Kawana State School hosted my annual Kawana electorate community awards. I am very pleased to say that everyone involved—from the school staff, student leaders, school choir and P&C—represented their school exceptionally well.

Another aspect that makes the Kawana electorate so great is the wonderful work of my electorate's community clubs, interest groups, disability services groups and sporting and recreational groups and I am so proud to be associated with many. Those organisations are spread throughout my

electorate. Kawana Surf Club patrols the largest stretch of beach in Queensland. I am continually amazed at the effort and the growth of the Kawana Surf Club. Although every season they ask me to do my bronze, when it involves jumping in the water when I have such a fear of sharks, it is not going to happen. Unless the club can give me a bronze in a swimming pool on land, it is not going to happen, but I support all of those wonderful volunteers who get their bronze and work at our beaches to keep people safe.

The Currimundi Catchment Care Group does voluntary work to improve the environment of the Currimundi catchment. I am looking forward to the Lights on the Lake later in the year. There are also the Lake Currimundi-Kawana Lions Club and Neighbourhood Watch groups. There are so many organisations in my electorate that do such a great job. There is also the Kawana Island Residents Association, the Kawana Forest Residents' Association and local police and emergency service workers who fight to keep the communities in my electorate safe.

Since the last election the Leader of the Opposition and deputy leader have embarked on many tours of the state. They have travelled to the north of Queensland, through the centre, through the south-east and, indeed, on several occasions they have visited my region that I hold so dear, the Sunshine Coast, a region the Labor Premier and her Labor ministers ignored in the past term of government, ignored through the most recent election campaign 12 months ago and continue to ignore today.

On Melbourne Cup day it was fantastic to have the Prime Minister attend Corbould Park racetrack. Whilst Labor's Bill Shorten was living it up in the Birdcage with millionaire celebrities drinking Moet champagne our Prime Minister was at Caloundra. We can see where the priorities of Labor's Bill Shorten lie. The Prime Minister of this great country came to talk to the people of Caloundra and the Sunshine Coast on Melbourne Cup day. I suspect the Prime Minister got an invite to the Birdcage to drink Moet with the celebrities but he chose the Sunshine Coast. That shows the commitment that the LNP and the federal coalition government have to the Sunshine Coast.

I assure voters that every day on the Sunshine Coast the LNP members are working hard. We do not pretend to hide from the fact that Queenslanders voted the way they did in the last two elections. As a party we have listened. We are working hard to rebuild faith in the LNP as the only party that can deliver positive results for Queensland. One theme I continue to hear from my constituents is that we have an invisible Premier: invisible when any tough decisions need to be made and invisible when any controversy surrounds her government—mostly in relation to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and the former minister for energy. Indeed, the only time this Premier does seem to be visible is when she is promoting a sports star, a movie star, a celebrity guest or, indeed, holds royal court with royal visitors. The state needs leadership. The state needs a Premier who is willing to stand up in the hard times, not go to ground and refuse to front up in the challenging times. We all agree that Queensland is a great state, the greatest in our nation, but its future depends on a government's ability to provide vision, leadership and certainty.

In its second term of office this Premier and her government still do not have a plan for Queensland—that is, except for Cross River Rail which this government has become so obsessed with to the detriment of the rest of Queensland. Those opposite campaign on the mantra of jobs, jobs, jobs; now I hear today it is 'trend jobs'. Our unemployment rate is now the worst in the nation. The ANZ/Property Council survey ranks this government as the worst government in Australia for planning and managing growth. We have seen this government inflict \$2.2 billion of new taxes on Queensland families without conducting modelling on its impact on jobs. Our state economy is a sad fifth place in the nation's economic rankings. We have the continued disaster that is the rail fail that seemingly cannot be solved by the Labor government.

We have a Premier more preoccupied with changing names of football stadiums as well as disgracefully denigrating the Lady Cilento family name rather than concentrating on the 28 per cent of kids going to the Lady Cilento emergency department who are not seen on time. This is a Premier who misled Queensland parents over a plan to allow unions into state school classrooms. It is a government completely owned—lock, stock and barrel—by the union movement. This is a Premier who dumps 75 reports under the cover of Friday night darkness despite campaigning on a platform of transparency, openness and accountability. This Premier's integrity is in tatters and the most recent referral to the Ethics Committee is yet another example of that.

With business confidence down, the highest unemployment rate in the nation and an economy that has practically flatlined, it is clear that this Labor government has no positive plan for Queensland's economy or the people. As I mentioned a moment ago, those opposite certainly do not seem to have any plan for the Sunshine Coast or its residents. In my electorate of Kawana this government refuses to fund vital road projects that are critical to get mums and dads home safely and on time. Congestion

has never been worse. Instead of investing in a solution like the Mooloolah River interchange this government continues to put its head in the sand. In fact, the minister says we just need another business case. I invite the minister to jump in his limo and travel to the Sunshine Coast for peak hour on Caloundra Road in the morning and afternoon—there is the business case he needs. He does not need to spend \$7 million; he needs to spend \$60 on fuel to get from Brisbane to the Sunshine Coast. There is his business case. That will show why we need the road infrastructure projects that the Labor Party are neglecting and have always neglected.

When this Premier was minister for transport in the previous Labor government she promised to finish the rail duplication between Caboolture and Landsborough by 2012 and then extend it to Nambour, but it stopped at Beerburrum in April 2009. That is another example of Labor's disregard for investment on the Sunshine Coast. It has taken another nine years for Labor to commit to the duplication, but it will only fund it 50-50 with the Commonwealth.

**Mr Powell:** They will only do 80-20.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** That is exactly right. They will only put in 20 per cent. This side of the House has committed to work with the federal government to get it done. We have had successive Labor governments for all but three of the last 20 years and this government is scratching its head wondering why Queensland does not have the necessary infrastructure. It is because of Labor governments! This government has no vision for Queensland. In its second term it is simply making it up as it goes along. It has no plan to deliver better infrastructure and planning; no plan to pay down debt of over \$80 billion created by Labor; no plan to grow the economy and improve business confidence; no plan to reduce the cost of living; and no plan to govern for all Queensland.

We have ministers sitting on that side of the House who should have been sacked years ago, including the Minister for Transport and Main Roads with all his secrecy and mangocube email accounts. Anyone not having the protection of the union movement like he does would have been booted a year ago. He is protected by the Deputy Premier. It is the only reason he is there. When the Liberal National Party preferences the Greens at the next election and the Deputy Premier is not in here his protection will be gone. He will be on his lonesome and I suspect he will be gone too.

We on this side of the House will continue working hard to deliver the policies Queenslanders want to see to bust congestion, reduce the cost of living, deliver better health services and education results. I thank the leadership team of Deb Frecklington and Tim Mander for appointing me the shadow minister for education and industrial relations and manager of opposition business. I have an acute interest in education, with three children in the state school system. We will support independent public schools. Not only will we support them, we will continue them and increase them. We believe principals and parents should have autonomy to run the schools. I refer to the ridiculous article released today by a professor in education saying that school principals have this additional terrible power and they should stop suspending students. If principals are suspending kids then they deserve to be suspended. There is probably pressure from other parents in terms of behaviour issues. I will support the principals who are making those determinations in the school.

The LNP will air-condition every state classroom in Queensland. Labor has no plan to do it. They will ask, 'How are you going to fund it?' We will fund it out of the billions of dollars in the state budget that is handed down every year. NAPLAN results continue to go down under a Labor government yet investment in education by the federal government is going up. This government has its policies wrong. This government refuses to put phonics in our classrooms. The Catholic education system is trialling it in Queensland this year and next year. Get on board. The teachers want phonics. The only reason Labor is not introducing it is because the Queensland Teachers' Union has said no to it. We should be finding out, like my young boy in the first two years of his education, whether or not kids are falling behind. If there is a test—and there is a phonics test—we should get behind it.

I look forward to holding this government to account in the education and industrial relations space, in particular when one sees that the union movement owns this government and that the Queensland Council of Unions is wanting to infiltrate a program into our schools. Even though the education minister stands up and says she knows nothing about it, her principal policy adviser is drafting the program with the Queensland Council of Unions.

We cannot do this job without the support of our campaign teams and our family, but also without our wonderful staff. It is our wonderful staff who on a day in, day out basis meet with our constituents. They often see quite agitated constituents who have issues that need sorting out. They are the front line of our offices in terms of dealing with constituent issues on a day-to-day basis. In particular, I pay tribute to my electorate officers from the past and also those who work with me currently, Aaron and Lelia. Both have been with me for nearly five years, which includes a bit of ministerial time served. I really appreciate the efforts that both Aaron and Lelia put into my office for the people of Kawana. We

are not in our offices all the time. We are out and about, meeting with constituents; we are at parliament; we have shadow ministerial responsibilities. They are the front line when people come to our offices or call us. I pay particular tribute to Aaron and Lelia for serving me and, more importantly, the people of Kawana so well. We are lucky to have such great people in electorate offices right across the state.

Only the LNP has a positive plan for the people of Queensland. The people of Queensland cannot trust the Labor Party to deliver.

*(Time expired)*