




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

Record of Proceedings, 22 March 2018

ADJOURNMENT

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (6.10 pm): I have so many reasons to be proud to be a member of the Palaszczuk Labor government: our amazing social reforms and economic plan, which is working; jobs are up—160,300, in fact, have been created since 2015; confidence is up; investment is up; and, locally, the return of front-line services; the fantastic Gundu Pa, our community health centre; and the return of 24-hour primary care.

I am so very proud to be a female member of the Palaszczuk Labor government and the first female member for Lytton. The Palaszczuk Labor government is made up of 23 female members of the 48 government members and 50 per cent of our cabinet is made up of women. This means the Palaszczuk Labor government has the highest representation of females in government across Australia. It is another great win for the mighty maroons. Our YMCA youth parliament member is also a very impressive young woman who I will talk about at another time.

The Palaszczuk government is truly representative of all our communities across Queensland, with members from all walks of life and backgrounds. Like all members in this place, I am fortunate to meet and work each and every day with hardworking local women who contribute so much to our community. Our local bayside women are involved in every aspect of life in our community. They are small business owners, doctors, dentists, teachers, support staff, builders, mechanics, they are parents, economists, scientists, environmentalists and the list goes on. Most importantly, they want the very best for their families and our communities and they are committed and dedicated to making this happen.

Just one example of these women are the women from Aid and Recreation for the Disabled. These women provide meals, handicrafts, entertainment and recreation for people with a disability and have been doing so for over 50 years. Many of the current members and executive were foundation members who saw the need to provide support for parents like themselves of children with a disability. If you have an hour or two to spare I know Bev and her team would love to hear from you.

During Queensland Week I hosted a morning tea to join with and to celebrate and acknowledge the wonderful achievements of the many women of the bayside and to thank these women who play such an important role in our very vibrant community. May I also take this opportunity to thank Mel Wong, my electorate officer, who has worked with me since 2015 and, prior to that, with the member for Capalaba, Michael Choi. I wish her and her family well in her new ventures. Mel is an extremely kind and caring person and I was fortunate to work with her. Mel will be missed as she has helped many baysiders. Good luck, Mel. I thank you.

I look forward to continuing to work with the many impressive, strong and committed women of the bayside and, indeed, my Labor colleagues here, to bring about great reforms for Queenslanders. Hopefully, and I look forward to it, we will see more gender equality on the other side of the chamber.