




Speech By
Linus Power

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

Record of Proceedings, 18 October 2018

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from 20 September (see p. 2750).

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (11.18 am), continuing: I started this speech in the previous sitting week and I wish to continue it. Before I do that, I wish to congratulate the Speaker on his election to high office and thank him for his rulings.

When I spoke last, I told the House about the spirit of Logan and the people who battled through the floods that we experienced, and I thank the Premier for visiting North Maclean and meeting with families at that point. I do think I represent an extraordinary electorate, one where there are great people who look after each other.

I also reflected on the democracy that we have and the election process. It is vitally important that we do not take our democracy for granted. We recognise that the diggers who stood together at Eureka and the shearers who gathered under the Tree of Knowledge in Barcardine did so to assert the rights of ordinary working people to vote, protest and be treated fairly.

I wish to recognise through the election process Queensland's trade unions, especially the Australian Workers' Union, the Plumbers Union, the Transport Workers Union, the Electrical Trades Union and really all of the unions in Queensland. They fight so hard for the workers of Queensland in their workplaces, but they also encourage their members to be active citizens, participating in the political process. We hear so often those on the other side attacking our trade unions. We do not hear them talk about the dedicated men and women who feel themselves called to take on the tough job of representing their fellow workers. The voluntary delegates at each workplace and those who work to organise and represent workers all make a contribution to a better, fairer Queensland.

I want to thank my campaign team of Teresa, David, Elliott, Hazel, Chrystel and Joe. They ran the campaign and ensured that I could spend my time talking to people directly. I wish to thank the central campaign team of the Australian Labor Party, especially Evan, Josh and also especially Jon. I know that Jon's passion to organise and win individual seats made a difference for many on this side. I wish to thank all of the volunteers—Michael and Jen, Rod, Patricia, David, Tari, Scott, Michael, John, Doug, Brett, Eric, Liam, Mainaaz, Victor, Tom, Jill, Stuart, Steve, Don, Lilian, Portia, Thomas, of course Heals, Rod and Jack and Tom, Max, my old flatmate John, Julian, Glynis, Kate, Lisa, Nelson and the many others who came through and helped. I want to particularly thank the younger Labor members who added so much energy to the campaign. They are part of a great passionate generation that will strive to make our nation fairer.

I recognise the new members in this place who bring a new dynamic, especially my bench mates, the members for Rockhampton and Cairns—as well as the members for Redlands, Aspley, Gaven and Mansfield.

Ms Howard interjected.

Mr POWER: No, you are not new. They bring a new voice to take this government up to an even higher level. I also mention the member for Cook—wow, there are a lot of them.

While I am at it, I would also like to thank all of the volunteers for all of the candidates in Logan. We got on really well. We shared sunscreen, drinks and bikkies. We recognised in the spirit of being from Logan that, although we might have different ideas about how to make a better, fairer Queensland, we are all willing to make a debate in public and be part of the precious and fragile gift of democracy in our state.

In that same spirit, I wish to recognise the other candidates—Gloria Vicario, Liam Jenkinson, Scott Bannan, Danielle Cox and Daniel Murphy. I know better than most that not winning after putting your name on the ballot and working hard to put forward your position is very tough. I did the same in 2012 and I know how tough it was. I thank their families. Although their names were not on the ballot and they were not in public, they worked just as hard and cared just as much.

The pre-poll station was in an industrial shed in Logan Village. It was crowded with volunteers from all the candidates, with many voters shaking hands with all the candidates. Some even took the time to question each of the candidates in turn about an issue that really mattered to them. All of the volunteers and candidates were good humoured. We shared the one tent, helping together to set up each day so that we could get a little shelter from the rain or sun. During a storm, we all stood together holding the frame and stopping it from taking off to Yarrabilba. Don't ever say that political candidates cannot work together because we certainly did that day.

I wish to recognise someone special, the former Speaker of this House and former member for Logan, John Mickel. John helped out on the campaign team. Over the 20 years I have known him, he has given me enormous guidance in politics and in life. John sees service through Labor politics as a calling to fight for those who have tried hard in life to get a better life for their family but society did not always reward. He is still active in the local area, volunteering on community boards and groups, and he is always there to give me advice when I need it.

I want to especially thank my wonderful wife, Jacki, who is such an enormous support. She is equally passionate about social justice, and we try to pass on to our three children our family's belief in social justice for all Australians. I want to thank Jack, Caitlin and Lucy, who were here last night, for all their help. Jack is a great help with signs and is very much determined to do the handing out. He reads all about politics and often puts tough questions to Jacki and me at the kitchen table, including speaking to me last night about the tough issues that we debated in this House yesterday.

Caitlin and Lucy are wonderful too and a key part of my campaign team. They sometimes miss me when I am in this place, but I think they also grow as young citizens when we discuss issues and they see their parents caring so much about these topics. I miss you too, but I am proud of the amazing way in which you are developing.

One new member I did not mention earlier, because I was saving it, is the member for the newly created seat of Jordan. Charis Mullen, the new member for Jordan, and I are forming a formidable team to advocate for the issues in our area. It is great to join with her and to see her passion for the area of Flagstone and the surrounds that she represents so powerfully. It means we are a team advocating for these people.

I want to comment briefly on the redistribution. I found it extraordinarily tough to lose some of the areas that I stood for. I felt that the redistribution did not deal well with the methods and plans of transport. Unlike the disgraceful effort of the member for Glass House, I will not seek to politicise the role of the redistributors or suggest that any party had anything to do with it. Perhaps the member for Glass House felt that the redistribution had not served him well and that there were some other forces at play. I felt exactly the same and I wrote passionately about it. However, I accept that we have a very strong system of independent people making those decisions. To suggest otherwise is to disgustingly undermine the process of a fair democracy we have in this state. I would never seek to do that. Although I believe they got the redistribution wrong in my particular area, I do not suggest they did it for any ulterior motives. For anyone to suggest otherwise is frankly disgusting.

As I said earlier, when I was elected I made a simple pledge to continue to fight to stop the LNP cuts, to restore services and to invest in our local community. I made this same pledge to the people of Logan in 2015, and I believe that the Palaszczuk Labor government is focused on those things and is delivering them.

On the doorstep in 2015, I spoke about the bus services that were cut locally and I said I would do my best to improve public transport. I spoke of the neonatal maternity services that were cut in Browns Plains and I said I would do my best to restore them. I spoke about how the LNP only added

\$1 million to the roads budget, despite the desperate need and, again, I promised to do my best to get extra investment. Members will note that I did not make extravagant, long-term promises—just a commitment to work hard and do my best as the advocate for Logan.

When I came to be elected in 2015, I was bitterly disappointed that there had only been an investment in two turn lanes with a budget of \$865,000. This was a wasted investment, as it turns out, as these turn spots will shortly be closed as part of the North Maclean safety project. As I said, I did not make extreme promises but instead I committed to work to turn it around. I would like to thank the Minister for Main Roads for constantly putting up with my demands, requests, questions, meetings and even pleadings. I know that under him the Mount Lindesay has had very much a fairer hearing than it had under the LNP. I warn him though that it does not mean I will not try even more to make up for the inaction of the LNP in the past.

I would like to talk to the House about some of the investments we have made. There is \$20 million in the budget for duplicating to four lanes the highway in Park Ridge South between Rosia Road and the intersection of Stoney Camp Road and Granger Road. There is \$20 million to put in a service road between St Aldwyn Road and Greenbank Road. That construction work has begun; they are clearing the path. We have already done the community consultation and I hope to be out there with the member for Jordan to talk more about it. There is the vitally important upgrade to the dangerous Greenbank Road intersection identified by the RACQ as one of the most dangerous. They recognise that we already had the money in the budget to fight for it. There is the uplift and four-laning of Camp Cable Road through Jimboomba. It is vitally important to those coming into Jimboomba. This upgrade means traffic will be able to stay in the left lane approaching Camp Cable Road and travel all the way through and then go up Tamborine Street without having to merge in and out.

There is the Camp Cable Road intersection upgrade that has already occurred. There are safer railings at Park Ridge; \$14 million in upgrades to Stockleigh Road; and then there is the \$40 million upgrade to Waterford Tamborine Road to install signals to improve safety, especially at Anzac Avenue. This will mean that people who do not want to go back to Yarrabilba via the Anzac Avenue bridge will be able to safely make that right turn. There is also the upgrade to the North Street intersection, and surveyors are out at this very moment beginning that process; the money is in the budget. There is also \$5.8 million to be spent on Beaudesert-Beenleigh Road. These are strong investments in our roads. I know there is more to be done and I will continue to advocate for my constituents. I am pleased to be joined by the member for Jordan. We recently released an update to the very comprehensive report which is the West Mount Lindesay plan. This upgrade identifies new projects. They are the ones for which we have been fighting internally and I hope the community gets behind them.

We know that young people have limited experience, skills and confidence and can find it difficult to get work. If they do not get the experience or work for some time, they have a far greater chance of becoming habituated to not working. That is why I was gutted when the LNP cut the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program that was providing such great value for taxpayers and ensuring that Queenslanders were work ready. I was so proud when we restored the program but was even prouder when I saw the really good community projects being completed such as the new museum building at Logan Village, the renovation and fencing of the RSL at Jimboomba and things like the Greenbank Pony Club and St Clare's at Yarrabilba among others. We are often given the facts, identified in outside consultant reports, that this is a strong return to government in terms of improving employment outcomes. On the ground, however, I see more of the feeling of pride and achievement of young people and their team leaders. They are rightly proud of the lasting legacy they leave their community.

As I said, I was disappointed that the pre-birth and post-birth care for mums and bubs was cut from Browns Plains Community Health Centre. That meant that expectant mums and mums with a bub who do not have a car would have to travel to Logan Hospital on the 560 bus service. Incidentally, that was one of the bus routes that had bus services cut. The service was cut and the way to get to the new service was made more difficult. That is why it was with a real sense of achievement that, together with the member for Waterford and with the assistance of the member for Woodridge, the then health minister, we restored this service. Together we got the data that Logan had a greater percentage of mothers who did not make the recommended number of visits with a corresponding link to lower birth weights and worse lifetime outcomes. We have restored this service and there is a passionate team based out of the Benevolent Society at the Browns Plains Community Health Centre. I think restoring this for those mums who did not have proper access is one of my proudest achievements during my time here.

I wanted to speak more about the restoration of bus services, especially the innovative demand responsive transport service. I wanted to speak more about the schools: zero schools were developed under the LNP and we have put in place more than 40. I wanted to talk about police—how the new

police expansion at Logan Village will more than double the number of police officers servicing Logan Village and Yarrabilba. I wanted to speak about the new fire services we are upgrading to auxiliary status and then building the full fire station. Those opposite cut our health services, they cut our transport services, they cut funding for our roads, but we build them. The Labor Palaszczuk government builds our schools, builds our roads and funds our medical services.

(Time expired)