




Speech By
Nikki Boyd

MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

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ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (6.39 pm): I begin by acknowledging that we meet on traditional land and pay my respects to elders, both in this place and in my community of Pine Rivers. I offer my congratulations to honourable members on their re-election and election to this chamber. I congratulate our leader, the Premier, on leading the great Australian Labor Party to majority government, along with her leadership team. I am proud to be a member of the Queensland Labor caucus, which has been a reformist government through our first term, sewing back the fabric of a community torn apart by the Newman LNP government and delivering on our values of fairness, equality and social justice.

I return to this place with a renewed confidence from my community. I am humbled once again by the faith that they have placed in me and humbled by the swing towards me at the 2017 election. The result at the recent election makes me the first member for Pine Rivers in 29 years to serve more than one term in this place.

Knowing that my time is finite, at the start I want to say my thankyou to all of my wonderful volunteers—all 280 of them. Thank for your faith, your motivation, your dedication and your determination. Together we doorknocked, called and high-vised our way through 500 square kilometres of the electorate, having fun all the way. Over the last term, we worked hard to reshape the structures of our party's membership through Pine Rivers and, as a result, we have diversified, democratised and grown a grassroots activist force to be reckoned with.

Thank you to my SEC president, Rae Ellis, and my leadership team. Thank you to Elvis Vic, who endlessly kept on trucking. First to work and often last to bed, you could guarantee that Vic would be at the first stop of a morning, usually about two hours before the rest of us. Vic, nothing was too much for you. You paid a central part in keeping our spirits high and everything tightly occy strapped down. Thank you my friend.

On election day, our election booths ran with military-like precision. Thank you to our roster champion, Yara Jabbour. We were so fortunate to have you with us every day of the campaign. Thanks to my money man, Jason O'Connor, for your advice, your vigilance and your support. Thank you to Darren and Kerry White. Darren, I could not think of a better way to spend your annual leave than on the campaign trail. You are a champion, backed in with growing team of legends. Thanks to my mountain stalwart, John Halse. Whether up the mountain or down the range, your committed assistance was very much appreciated. Thank you to the mighty White family: Caryn, Steve, my fan boy Jared and our great friend Ashlea. You are a tribe to be reckoned with and we love having your support.

Vic Carr, I do not think there was a single thing that we asked you to do that you turned down. You are such a kind and loving soul. It was a delight to campaign with you. Thank you to Mick Gillam, particularly for the early starts and standoffs on Warner Corner. Thank you to Paul McNair, the king of Closeburn. I am very appreciative to Bernie Brown for all of his assistance. He got us out of a jam more than once with his seemingly bottomless toolkit.

Shane and Louise Buckney street-stall like no other, with style and humour. They helped me get through many hours on prepoll when their wonderful kindness saw every booth sustained for election day. You were wonderful. Thank you. Thank you to Nicole Maloney; my favourite woman in construction, Alison Price; and her loyal stand-in, Mikayla Bennet. Thank you to the 'doot of the Pine', Keith Belding, for your flea-market service and your truck adventures. Thanks also to Jacqueline Moore for the laughs. To our Maltese mate Mick and the wonderful Leonie Calleja: thank you for your commitment and for providing lots of humour along the way.

To Pam and Greg Hand, thank you for your many hours of assistance. Rosemay de Chavel, one of our many volunteers who joined our campaign after we doorknocked you at home, thank you for your commitment. Thank you to our Bunnings regular, Bill Bourke. Thank you to my Lawnton crew: Jen Morrissey and Col and Sharon Harris.

My youngest campaign volunteer was then 10-year-old Jemima Wylie, who was in year 5 at one of our local schools. Jemima wanted to be a part of the election process and we loved welcoming her onto the team with community and campaign events. We even co-opted some friends along the way. Keep looking at the world with hope, Jemima, and being a part of the change you want to see. We love having you on our team.

Lovingly dubbed 'Mr Dayboro', Cameron Crouch joined our team during the campaign but sadly lost his life earlier this year. He left far too soon. In the short time we spent with him, it was obvious that he was a true gentleman and loved by many. For Team Pine, Cameron is legend, helping us to win the Dayboro booth on primary votes for the first time in 14 years. To Cam I say: rest easy, mate. To anyone out there doing it tough, please reach out and seek help.

My office staff are absolutely exceptional. It has taken a few misses to get the staffing mix right, but you could find no women more committed, loyal and dedicated. Thank you for going above and beyond for me and our community. I know it is often tough on the front line. You are exceptional employees, strong women and wonderful friends. You are the gravity that keeps me grounded, particularly during election campaigns. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, Nolsey and Leigh.

Forever in solidarity, thanks to Chris Moore, who is living the dream every day. To conversationalist extraordinaire Kelly Bush: thanks for the laughs and perspective, Kips. To Larissa Louise Flannigan: muchas gracias, Flanno. Thanks to our el presidente and resident decorator, Emma Holmes, and her fearless mum, Yvonne Tregonning. Thanks to Jimmy Jam Jar, James Gartry. Thanks to the wonderful Selina Young; the queen of the Pine, Zac Balfour; working-class hero Damien Davie; Mick McKewon—I still only catch every third word you say, mate, but thank you—Natasha Hoole and Jared Marks. Thank you for your dedication and commitment

Thank you to my trade union, United Voice. Gary, Sharon, Shiela, Heather, Jeanette, Scott and Matt, thank you for your support. Representing the members of United Voice, some of the lowest paid and under-recognised people in our community, has been a great honour throughout my working life. Those wonderful people, often forgotten and discarded under conservative governments, remain front of my mind as we reform into a modern, inclusive and dynamic state.

I thank my southern Misso comrades, Mark Butler and Lisa Chesters, for their assistance on the campaign trail with doorknocking, high-vis, events or just a message to check in on days when I needed it most. It was enormously appreciated. The might of the Missos is very prevalent through my volunteer base from cleaners, teacher aides, manufacturing workers, early educators and health professionals. All are working class heroes and I love that we campaign always with shared values: fair jobs, an inclusive society, stronger communities and a sustainable future.

I would like to thank my good mate and former Queensland Labor state secretary, Evan Moorhead. He is a calming influence to the many hotheads in our party, myself included. I know we will miss him in the party office, but he is still only a phone call away. He has shown great wisdom in ensuring a clear succession plan and a very capable successor, who nonetheless has giant shoes to fill. I am forever grateful to my loved friend David Malley, not just for the support that you give me every step of the way but also for giving me the great advice to take on your partner in life to work alongside. To our resident bookie, barbequer and all-round best guy, thank you for always having my back. Thanks for the many hours of assistance and support from my godmother, Minnie Cole, who is always there for me.

These speeches are often an opportunity to thank our partners for all that they endure. Awkwardly for me, this is someone I am often very guilty of forgetting to acknowledge. I pay tribute to the enormous contribution of my husband, Reece Pianta. The sacrifice that he has made for my career is insurmountable. Not only did he give up his job to work every day on my campaign; he ran every

imaginable facet of it. He designed all of my communications, corflutes, website and printed materials. He ran the mini campaigns, the doorknocks and the phone banks, even though I think secretly he does not enjoy them. He ran a stellar campaign that I am so incredibly proud of and I hope he is, too.

It takes a special kind of person to give everything they have to something knowing that the full reward goes to another, and Reecie is certainly that. While the member for Capalaba may joke that I only married Reece to get him to run my campaigns instead of his, I want it on the record that that is certainly not the case. However, I am glad that he is trapped on the north side and not the bayside. Thanks, Toots, for bringing the pizzazz to the Pine. Your support is endless, your contribution great and your love abounding. I am so happy that we are in this together and so excited that next year we will welcome a daughter into the world, hopefully only comprising the best bits of us both.

Thank you to my wonderful family who are always there for me when I need them. My parents, now both retired, have gained new piecework engagements thanks to me. My dad, Jimbo, is my best office volunteer and my mum, Gerri, is my resident sewing lady. Between their grown kids, our husbands and wives and six grandchildren, mum and dad are there for whatever we need and no ask seems to be too big. They juggle grey nomading with full-time parental and grandparental duties, and for that we are all terribly thankful.

Thank you to my wonderful siblings and their partners who are such a wonderful support to me, particularly Lisa and Steve and Matt and Nicole who donate, attend my fundraisers and pitch in every bit they can spare on my campaign. Thank you also to the Piantas—Chris, June and Caitlin—for your backing and support.

In the first term of the Palaszczuk government my community saw the restoration of front-line services, our schools saw an investment of 40 extra teacher aides and teachers and our health and hospital services saw 837 extra local nurses, 208 extra local doctors and 350 local health practitioners. Our hardworking community sector saw funding reinstated and gag orders lifted.

There is now no denying that the Campbell Newman LNP government left a devastating impact on the lives of people in communities like mine. While it does not take much time at all to tear things down, the task of rebuilding is painstakingly longer. I thank my community for sticking with the Palaszczuk Labor government on this journey and for ensuring we can continue with the good work we commenced in the last term of government. The majority that has been bestowed upon us is an act of faith and it is our responsibility not to break that faith, to continue on as we have been and to comply with expectations conveyed through the ballot box.

This term sees a significant change in the electoral boundaries to the seat of Pine Rivers—change that is bitter sweet with the loss of many great suburbs such as Lawnton, Joyner and Ocean View and great community organisations, which I continue to love and miss very much. My electorate is now more diversified and there are new opportunities for me to meet and engage in the new areas. The redrawn Pine Rivers community is now a mix of suburban, rural, semirural, mountain living and industrial hubs. The 500 square kilometres of diversity brings with it a unique mixture of people, businesses, community groups and history. The core of representing Pine Rivers remains the same. People in my community want opportunity. They want to be connected. They want confidence that their government cares about them. Through my first term in this place I focused heavily on rebuilding and investing in schools, front-line services and jobs and infrastructure, particularly in the transport space.

Southern Moreton Bay is growing into a vibrant destination. The opening of the Moreton Bay Rail Link, commonly known as the Redcliffe Peninsula line, was more than a century in the making, but has been delivered thanks to Labor state and federal governments. The base of the line, and particularly rail bridge infrastructure, saw significant investment, including the North Pine rail bridge and the South Pine and Tributary Creek bridges, to open up the new capacity. Strathpine station is undergoing a full accessibility upgrade and Lawnton park-and-ride will see its capacity more than double in coming months. While we want people to use public transport where possible, the reality is the vast majority of my community rely on their cars. Transport was also a focus in terms of road congestion with many bottlenecks and safety hotspots being addressed.

In my community we are delivering \$2 million for a detailed design for a new interchange at the Strathpine Road-Gympie Arterial Road overpass and \$2.3 million for an on-ramp extension at the Linkfield Road-Gympie Arterial Road overpass—terrible bottlenecks for commuters in my community. We are delivering the long-awaited Petrie roundabout upgrade, removal of the Dixon Street roundabout and consolidation of two sets of traffic lights, safety upgrades to the Kremzow Road-South Pine Road intersection at Brendale, the long-awaited pedestrian crossings in Main Street, Samford and safety upgrades at Eatons Crossing Road and Samford Road-Dayboro Road. There is \$2.5 million for safety works on Mount Glorious Road and Samford Road-Mount Glorious Road—a matter often raised with

me by locals up the mountain. There will be a new turning lane on Dayboro Road at the Dayboro Transfer Station—again, a safety black spot and an accident waiting to happen. My community has told me loud and clear: they want roads that work. There is still a lot to do but over the last three years the roadworks that have been everywhere in Pine Rivers are finally starting to bear fruit.

I campaigned hard for a university for my community. It is not right that we have some of the lowest uptakes of tertiary and further education simply because we do not have a facility nearby. My team and I knocked on 5,000 doors, rolled out dozens of community information stalls and engaged thousands of locals through our petition. There is now bipartisan support for stage 1 of the Petrie university, as we were able to drag the LNP federal government to the table with some funding.

I note that Labor has again led the way with a commitment to fund the next stage of the university project, along with placements and changes to university education that will facilitate those with limited means from unlocking the education they will need for their future. The Petrie mill university project, led by council and USC, demonstrates the type of exciting opportunity the future holds for my community.

There is a place in my heart that is branded Dayboro. The little town of yesteryear is the place my husband, Reece, and I wed. Once a dairy, pineapple and timber town, this is a place that absolutely personifies community. I am pleased to have helped secure new classroom facilities, water treatment plant upgrades, supported the showgrounds upgrade and helped trail riders gain access to land around Lake Samsonvale.

During the campaign I personally phoned every person in the greater Samford community coming into the Pine Rivers electorate, doorknocked the village and held numerous listening posts. Getting to know the Samford community even better is something I look forward to over the coming term. It is a unique place with warm welcoming people. I warmly welcome them to the electorate of Pine Rivers. Many groups have honoured me by asking me to be their patron. Thank you to Act 1 Theatre, Dayboro Pony Club, Pine Central Holy Spirit Hornets Rugby League Club and Lake Samsonvale Water Sports Association.

There is a stereotype that the environment is an inner-city issue, but I tell members now that the kind of world we leave to our kids matters to us in the suburbs too. Through the campaign I made it clear to all in my electorate that I would be active on tree clearing, that I would support a low-carbon fuel future and that I want us to protect and conserve our natural habitats and wildlife. We could not continue clearing 1,000 football fields worth of vegetation every day. I am proud we acted as soon as we were re-elected to stop broadscale, unrestricted clearing in Queensland again.

In our last sitting week Bray Park State High School held its first year 12 graduation in its own multipurpose school hall. They were able to do this for the first time because a Labor government invested in upgrading it to make it a fully functional performing arts and multipurpose space. I was very proud to open that hall less than two weeks ago.

I believe, and the party I am a member of believes too, that education is the great leveller. It is the thing that gives every person in our community the opportunity to pursue whatever dream they have. We believe that state schools are the doors that unlock this reality. That is why we invest in facilities and the staff that bring them to life.

Before I close, I want to say something about two historic reforms. All over the world we are seeing ultraconservative and neofascist forces threatening moderate progressive democratic institutions. In our society in the last 12 months we have seen two giant reforms—marriage equality and reproductive rights. Many hundreds of new electors enrolled in Pine Rivers to have their say in the marriage equality poll. Many hundreds contacted me to express a view either way on reproductive rights. Both of these reforms were delivered and, with only a few notable exceptions, with a mature, community conversation where the community's will was democratically expressed through the institutions of its parliaments. This fills me with hope. It is a clear demonstration that for our society the institutions of our parliaments and governments continue to function as they were intended at their inception over a century ago.

Finally, in closing, I congratulate my neighbouring colleagues: the member for Kurwongbah, Shane King, on his re-election; Steven Miles on his election as the member for Murrumba; Mark Furner on his re-election as the member for Ferny Grove; and our new member for Aspley, Bart Mellish, who has already been an energetic colleague and campaigner on the Linkfield Road overpass. A long-term branch member remarked to me recently that, under the conservatives, things stagnate and under Labor things get built. Certainly in Pine Rivers we are seeing long-awaited projects delivered one by one thanks to a Labor government building things and getting things done.