




Speech By
Shane King

MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH

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ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (12.28 pm): It is my great privilege to rise in this address-in-reply debate to deliver my first speech as the state member for Kurwongbah and a proud second-term MP in the Palaszczuk government. I will start by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which this parliament meets.

When I rose in this place in the 55th Parliament as the member for Kallangur to give my first speech, I started by saying that to say my life had changed dramatically in recent times was an understatement. The adaptation from electrician to state MP is a huge one. I described it last term like being on the travelator at the airport where you cannot easily stop while dodging objects thrown at you all the time and trying to read up on a topic to be able to render someone some assistance. For the record, I still have my electrical licence and occasionally help out with some work, but sadly I no longer have the time to drop everything to replace a faulty switch or GPO.

The Electoral Commission's decision to redistribute Kallangur into Kurwongbah has created some angst and a little confusion for constituents. I have sadly lost the suburbs of Kallangur, Dakabin and Murrumba Downs where the Palaszczuk government had done so much work with residents to make real changes to better the community.

Apart from the intended sell-offs and cruel sackings of so many local workers, supported by my predecessor, when I was elected as part of the Palaszczuk government in 2015, the Kallangur electorate had pressing infrastructure and community needs that had been neglected and not listened to for the previous three years. It was only Labor that opposed and stopped the sell-off of the Kallangur State School, which is a much needed space for the school and community. There was a business-destroying arrangement which would have allowed the contractors, who were upgrading Dohles Rocks Road as part of the Peninsula rail line project, to divert 15,000 vehicles a day through our suburban streets in Murrumba Downs past two schools.

This arrangement was apparently supported by the then councillor for division 7 and my predecessor. I thank my good friend and our Deputy Premier, Jackie Trad, for her help and advice in getting this stopped and the upgrade done under traffic, as it always should have been. That work is now completed, with the local businesses intact and a community grateful for our intervention. We also opposed the former Newman government's lack of action which served to deny our waterskiers and recreational users satisfactory access to Lake Kurwongbah.

I am pleased to have handed over the reins to my friend the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services and the new member for Murrumba, Dr Steven Miles. He inherits a community that has seen and can look forward to the delivery of the infrastructure it needs, with Kallangur, Murrumba Downs and Dakabin receiving a brand-new community centre will be built in the Kallangur area. I thank the former minister for communities, Shannon Fentiman, for her help in getting the Arcadis report completed and heeding its recommendations.

This report highlighted the need for a new centre for community and youth services to meet the growing needs of the Moreton Bay region. This report was an election commitment I made in the lead-up to the 2015 election. This centre will be a great asset to both electorates of Murrumba and Kurwongbah. Judging by the meetings of residents which are held regularly, the idea has excited a community that desperately needed more services not less.

A brand-new car park will be built at the Kallangur State School on the spare oval. This project stands in stark contrast to the plans of the former government, where the LNP and their local member wanted to sell that oval. Two new train stations were planned, built and funded by Labor in Kallangur and Murrumba Downs. There is record funding for local schools thanks to the committed efforts of the member for Cooper in her previous role as minister for education.

Perhaps though the most anticipated project in the Murrumba and Kurwongbah electorates is the long-overdue upgrade of Dakabin Railway Station. Those who were here in the 55th Parliament would no doubt be sick of hearing me talk about the need for this upgrade. All the hard work to secure this upgrade will be evidenced this term as the station gets rebuilt. Labor has delivered what the LNP never would or could. More importantly, I said there would be no more band-aids at Dakabin station and that is what we have delivered—no more band-aids but instead a new station.

As the rail line and station forms the boundary between Kurwongbah and Murrumba, I will be very active in seeing it through to conclusion. I would also like to thank the hardworking activists, like Gemma Gale and her Dakabin Station Action Group, for their tireless work with me and the new member for Murrumba and the Palaszczuk government's departments. We look forward to working together to see its completion.

Before I move on from talking about my old electorate, I must mention the honour I did have in being present with my colleagues at the opening of the Peninsula rail line. Our community members were there too and it was a great day. It was a great Labor project instigated by federal Labor and commenced under the Bligh government with larger-than-life assistance from the Mayor of the Moreton Bay Regional Council, Allan Sutherland, who dressed the part on the day. We only waited 100 years for the project to come to fruition but it has been worth it. It has been a great exercise in showing what can be achieved when different levels of government put partisanship aside and work together to achieve a common goal. The electorate of Kallangur, such as it was, will forever be an important part of the history of this place and for me. I will always have the honour of being the last ever member for Kallangur.

The electorate of Kurwongbah is in its second incarnation, having been previously in existence from 1992 to 2009. It takes its name from Lake Kurwongbah, which was created when Sideling Creek was dammed in 1958. Kurwongbah is an Indigenous name meaning black duck and was chosen as the name of the lake following a newspaper competition in the 1950s.

This electorate has two titans of the Labor movement as former members—Margaret Woodgate and Queensland's first female attorney-general and my good friend, Linda Lavarch. At this juncture, I would like to thank Linda for the enormous contribution she made to my campaign. Linda launched my campaign and gave me wise counsel about the community that is Kurwongbah. I am convinced that her staunch effort and the long hours and then the scrutineering at Genesis Christian College in Warner that she did played no small part in delivering the booth for me—not an easy feat.

I would like to thank my friend and neighbour Mark Ryan, the member for Morayfield, for his representation and handover of many parts of his old electorate which have now been entrusted to me. I will work hard to look after them as well as he did. He has left big boots to fill. Wherever I travelled throughout Narangba Valley and Burpengary, everyone loved Mark—from schoolkids to seniors. I felt like I was in an episode of *Happy Days* and he was Richie Cunningham. They are big boots to fill.

This incarnation of Kurwongbah starts at the eastern border of Lake Samsonvale and contains the suburbs of Lawnton, Joyner, Petrie, Whiteside, Kurwongbah, Narangba, Narangba Valley and Burpengary. The electorate also features parts of Bray Park. Importantly, I now capture rural areas extending out to Rush Creek. The election campaign provided a humbling opportunity to become heavily involved in the new areas that I have picked up in the electorate. I am pleased to announce that my electorate office will be moving into the electorate shortly. The member for Murrumba cannot wait because he will get to move into my old office.

I have big plans for this term in the Kurwongbah electorate. During the life of the last parliament, my colleague the member for Bancroft and I petitioned the transport minister and successfully got the money for and saw the Boundary Road-Bruce Highway interchange planned and built. During this term, the member for Bancroft and I will see the planning and design and the start of construction of the New

Settlement Road and Deception Bay Road interchange. Unfortunately for our constituents and for commuters, we should have seen this finished earlier, except it was another unjustified cut by the former LNP government, with none of their local MPs in the region standing up for it. Labor has restored this funding. I know my friend the Minister for Transport is keen to see it commence construction, as are the residents of Narangba, Burpengary and Deception Bay.

Lastly, this term will see the metamorphosis of the old Petrie Paper Mill into the new Moreton Bay campus of the University of the Sunshine Coast. This will bring a positive change to our community, in particular to the lives of our young people, and it will offer opportunities forever. I am proud to have this brilliant facility being built in my electorate. I am working hard to make sure that the Petrie roundabout is completed before the university so that the area and traffic can complement each other and be ready for the precinct. Funding was provided and work will progress on restoring the dam wall at Lake Kurwongbah so that skiers, paddlers, rowers and other recreational users can enjoy our beautiful lake. I have worked hard with Seqwater to provide this outcome.

I would not be here in this place but for the trust that the constituents of Kurwongbah have placed in me. I thank each and every member of our community, whether or not they voted for me, for contributing to the great democratic traditions of this state. I also have to say thank you to the mighty Electrical Trades Union—a very, very popular union in this place. To Ongy, Stuey and Neisha, Chris McGaw, Matty and Gav, Chrissy and Andrew, Wendall, Irena, Lynchy, Gaz, Brenton, Scotty, Bateman, Michael Wright and all the interstate crew, Pat and Kerry—

Mr Power: Did you mention Stuey?

Mr KING: I did mention Stuey; I will take that interjection. And to Barry, Kathryn and Lachlan—thank you to all of the rank-and-file electricians and linesmen who helped in the months leading up to the campaign, and Allan and the ETU national office for always having my back. The Not4Sale message is one of trust and authenticity. When they said the LNP plus One Nation equalled asset sales, and my LNP opponent was a bit too close with Hanson's mob, people once again knew that their assets were more than likely up for sale under a coalition of cuts and chaos. The win by the Palaszczuk government has made sure once again that our assets are not for sale.

I thank the wider labour movement for their support of my efforts to return to this place—Gary O'Halloran at the Plumbers Union, Rohan Webb at the AMWU, Ros McLennan at the QCU and Gary Bullock at United Voice. Their members are well served under their leadership. The Queensland union movement is constantly demonised by those opposite but rarely thanked for the great work they do. I know their heart is in looking after workers and the things that make their lives and that of their families better.

No campaign is successful if the hard work is not put in at an organisational level. There is no one better in the ground game than the warriors at the ALP state office, particularly Evan Moorhead and Janine, Jon, Jaxen, Mitch and all the office team. Thank you; your contribution is immeasurable. It is comforting to know that we will still be in great hands with Jules Campbell taking over the helm.

I say thank you to my Moreton Bay region parliamentary and council colleagues: Senator Chris Ketter and Susan Lamb MP, member for Longman, my friend Yvette D'Ath and thanks again to Mark Ryan and Steven Miles as well as Chris Whiting, Mark Furner and Nikki Boyd—the members for Redcliffe, Morayfield, Murrumba, Bancroft, Ferny Grove and Pine Rivers—and their staff. Thanks for all your assistance and cooperation over the past three years and into the future. Campaigning is a hard business, but it is made easier when you can swap war stories and get real help along the way. We can do great things together and the future of the Moreton Bay region is a bright one with our team in the area.

To councillors Gillam, Charlton, Flannery, Sims and Grimwade, working with you is a pleasure and we achieve a lot together. I make special mention of Allan Sutherland, our mayor, whose vision for our region has been, and is, one that is outstanding. I have to say I admire the way he never wavers in his commitment to getting things done for our region.

To my friends the Doyles, who are more family than friends, the Kummerfelds, Eddie Bland for keeping life interesting as always, and the Mogridge family, I say thank you. To the amazing party members and in particular the Kallangur, Petrie-Lawnton and Narangba crew, I say thank you. In particular I say thank you to Bob, Veronica, Gary and Linda, Pat, Iris, Dianne and Lance, Helen and Wes, Craig who helped from Sydney, Jaxon, Bernie, Lynne, Sam, James, Michael, Vikki, Daniel, Joy, Corinne and family and so many loyal branch members. Thank you; you are the backbone and the heart of the Labor Party.

There was the Hervey Bay and nurse crew, John and Gail and Jeff and Anne, who never need asking; you just line up again and again. Thanks to local businesses for your friendship and support: thanks to Gary Bryant from Emilio's and Vinnie from Narangba Pizza; Andrew McKenzie and Maurice Blackburn; Shane and Village Motors for the great sign sites; and Narangba Tavern, Norths Leagues & Services Club and Kallangur Bowls for putting out my drink coasters.

I say thanks to my small campaign team who always put up with the madness: Jerry, Sheridan and Kerry, John, Kelly, Taylor and Kegan for helping to steer the ship and putting up with my particular style of madness. Your efforts are above and beyond and I am grateful. Thanks to Lloyd, Phil and Stan for all the work with signs, in particular, on election day. Thanks for loaning me the time and skills of a very special person to help share the load.

I say thanks to my old supply industry workmates and delegates, who stumped up yet again: Brett Hanan, the Humphreys boys, Bruce, Cam and Andy, Millsy, Rocka, Tom, Gawain, John Taylor, Jason and Mel Houghton. I know I have forgotten a few, but I will always be eternally grateful for your help. Thanks to Ronnie Coleman for your friendship and chauffeuring skills on election day and for tidying up my ute; and Simmo and Penny for starting this off back in 2013 and also for being the voice of reason and sarcasm when I needed it. I say a huge thanks to my electorate staff without whom I would be lost. Thanks Leanne, Barb and Lorraine for the long days and nights. You guys rock.

Last but certainly not least, I say thanks to my lovely wife, Ang, for just being you, and my family, Ben and Ella. Thank you. You continually back me every day so that I can do this important work. We are a great team.