




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 5 September 2018

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (6.19 pm): I would like to start by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land, the Jagera and Turrbal people, and pay my respects to the traditional owners from my own Waterford community, the Jagera and Yugambah language organisation, and elders, past and present. I am extremely humbled that the people of the Waterford electorate have again put their trust in me. As everyone would know, election campaigns are possible only with the dedication of volunteers. To all of my amazing volunteers, I thank them for the countless hours they worked.

It was a fantastic team of lifelong Labor campaigners, who can never resist a good fight, and first-time volunteers who signed on because they shared Labor's values of equality, fairness and a commitment to social justice. Leeanne Smith—one of my dedicated doorknockers—became involved for the very first time in an election campaign because she believed in those Labor values. As I foster carer and a proud Indigenous woman, she is passionate about equality and knows the importance of front-line services. Charlie Bennett was another local who made the decision to get involved for the first time. As a carer for his lovely wife, Jenny, who suffers from MS, Charlie advocates for carers and supporting disadvantaged people in my local community.

I would also like to thank my incredible union family from right across the union movement, but particularly Rohan Webb and Ann-Marie Allan from the AMWU. I would also like to thank the Labor Party's first woman state secretary, Julie-Ann Campbell, who is doing a fantastic job.

To those who work tirelessly in organisations such as Maurice Blackburn, Slater and Gordon, Access—and especially CEO Gail Kerr—the Kingston East Neighbourhood Group, the Centre Against Sexual Violence and Jeta Gardens, I say thank you. I am grateful for the unwavering support of dear friends such as Susan McGrady, Kate Luke, Jason Spencer, Jessica Lee, Chloe Shorten and, of course, my incredible family.

My mum, Christine, is the most determined volunteer at prepoll and my biggest champion. My dad mowed the lawns and kept things running at home in my absence. My sister, Erin, took on the unenviable job of booth roster coordinator. Her husband, Charles, gave up his tickets to the Ashes to help on election day. My incredible adopted parents and friends, Fran Van Gilst and Pepe Munoz, helped me so much. Of course, I thank my partner, Matt, for all of his support.

Finally, I would like to thank my incredibly talented campaign manager, Chantelle Tibbotts. Her support over the past several years has been invaluable. I cannot thank Chantelle enough.

When I was elected in 2015 I made a commitment to the residents of Waterford to fight for the issues that matter: jobs, health, education, transport and the environment. I am immensely proud of what we have achieved together in my first term. As the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, I was part of achieving the biggest investment in Child Safety staff in over a decade, with \$200 million in funding, and incredible systemic reforms in the area of domestic and family violence.

I am pleased to have received support and advice from people who work tirelessly for my community, such as Bronwen Sheehan, Bryan Smith, Lindsay Wegner, Natalie Lewis, Karyn Walsh, Nicolle Edwards, Quentin Bryce and Kay McGrath. I would also like to acknowledge the incredible work and long hours of my hardworking staff: Cynthia Kennedy, Shane Bevis, Monica Irvine, Ron Goodman, Inga Williams, Kelly Daniels, Will Curtis, Steph Kameric, Chanelle Ashfield Smith, Caitlyn Ramos, Charli Fouhy, Olivia Amsden, Alice Gilliver, Josh Lucy and Liz Irvine. I am really proud of what we have achieved.

I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved in Waterford: an upgraded emergency department, 41 new staff and 11 beds at Logan Hospital; 127 new nurses for Logan; a school hall at Marsden State High School; the Scrubby Creek cycleway; a much needed upgrade of the Beenleigh Courthouse and a domestic and family violence court; a new school hall at Mabel Park State High School; and the new pint-sized bus, Poncho, which provides much needed transport for the Woodlands community. That is why the city of Logan voted overwhelmingly for Labor, including in the new seat of Macalister, which takes in part of my old electorate and which is now ably represented by my very good friend Melissa McMahon.

In Bethania, owing to the passion of residents, we have delivered several new bus stops and \$650,000 for a new emergency vehicle crossing at Bethania station. It was these achievements that motivated residents such as Amy Throssell from Regal Waters retirement village to get involved in her first campaign at the age of 87.

Last year's devastating floods also exposed Logan's incredible community spirit. The stories of resilience have continued to inspire me and affirm my pride in representing the incredible community of Waterford. My neighbours showed that Logan spirit when, as the floodwater rose, they were at my house doing what they could to save my animals and belongings while I was at the disaster centre. I will always be grateful to them for their assistance. I thank Karl, Larissa, John and Linda.

Labor has also returned community based midwifery in Logan through the Jajumbora community hub in Waterford West. Back in 2014, the member for Logan and I campaigned for this. Those important community midwifery services had been slashed by the LNP and it was an incredibly proud day when we stood at Waterford West to reopen one of three new community midwifery centres.

Another key contributor to my campaign was Des Hardman, our stellar candidate in Forde. As the head of medical imaging at Logan Hospital, Des has been a strong campaigner against the federal government's \$6 million cut from Logan Hospital.

Mr Power: That's why we're backing him.

Ms FENTIMAN: I take that interjection from the member for Logan. This \$6 million cut by the federal government represents over 9,000 visits to the emergency department, or almost 15,000 outpatients visits. The federal LNP government has also cut almost \$5 million from schools in the Waterford electorate. I will always fight against these cuts.

In terms of my portfolio of Training and Skills Development, the federal LNP is ripping \$70 million from Queensland's training budget. That is 7,000 apprentices and trainees whose training is at risk. The Queensland Labor government understands how critical training is to grow our economy and to ensure that we meet the needs of children today and in the future. That is why, last week, it was fantastic to launch our Free TAFE campaign, which gives year 12 graduates the opportunity to enrol in over 160 priority courses at no cost. To ensure that we have quality training facilities, we are delivering \$85 million over three years to upgrade campuses from Cairns to the Gold Coast, including at my local TAFE at Meadowbrook.

I am proud to continue the fantastic Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative. In Logan alone, more than 3,200 people have been assisted, with almost 2,000 securing a job because of the program. One participant from Waterford, who recently completed a Certificate II in Business, has used his new skills to start up a business with his wife in providing transport to and from the airport in the Logan community. I was really pleased to meet him while he was completing his Skilling Queenslanders for Work course at the Kingston East Neighbourhood Centre, which is a fantastic partner in our Skilling Queenslanders for Work program.

In my first speech in this House I spoke about Rachel, a young woman I met at the Loganlea train station, who was pleased to see that Labor was talking about addressing youth unemployment because so many of her friends and her sister could not find work. I am proud that Labor is continuing to address this issue through its investment in training and skills programs and backing jobs through our Back to Work program, which has already supported more than 16,000 people into jobs across Queensland. Incredibly, once again, at the last election the LNP in its costing documents cut funding to Back to Work and Skilling Queenslanders for Work.

Small businesses are the engine room of our economy. We are supporting them to grow through more than \$8.2 million in grants provided to over 1,500 small businesses. Recipients expect to take on 2,995 new employees because of the funding that we are providing.

Labor is continuing to deliver for the Logan community, investing \$281 million in the Logan Hospital, increasing beds by a whopping 40 per cent and providing a much needed new maternity ward. It has been a pleasure to meet many times with the nurses and midwives at Logan Hospital who tell me how much needed a new maternity ward is. It was a pleasure to be there with all of the members of Logan and the Premier to announce this much needed funding.

We will also provide an \$18 million accessibility upgrade for Loganlea train station, something that local Waterford resident and youth parliament member Kathryn Lyons had advocated for for such a long time. Being so close to Logan Hospital it is absolutely imperative that we have a disability upgrade at that station.

As the re-elected member for Waterford, I recommit to everyone in my electorate to continue to fight for you. Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to achieving many great things for our community in the future.