




Speech By  
**Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe**

**MEMBER FOR SANDGATE**

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Record of Proceedings, 8 March 2018

**ADDRESS-IN-REPLY**

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (5.53 pm): Let me not close my eyes but just adjust to my deteriorating ones. Thank you, Mr Speaker, firstly for your daily acknowledgment of the traditional owners of the land on which this parliament stands: the Jagera and Turrbal people. I also wish to congratulate you on your re-election as the member for Mulgrave and on your elevation to the high office of the Speakership. I am confident you will carry out this high office fairly and effectively with the good courtesy for which you are renowned.

In that vein I also wish to congratulate all the new members, including the member for Noosa, whose first speech we have just heard, and others this afternoon. I particularly want to welcome my new neighbour Bart Mellish in Aspley, as well as returning members—particularly the members of my closest neighbouring electorates of Nudgee and Redcliffe.

I also acknowledge that there are several firsts in this place. Consequently, this chamber is now more representative of the diversity of our state. I congratulate my friend the member for Cook, the first Torres Strait Islander to sit in this place, and I congratulate the member for Mirani, the first Queenslander of South Sea islander descent to sit in this place.

It is great to be returning to this place as a member of the Palaszczuk Labor government. I would like to thank the people of Sandgate for returning me as their representative with an increased margin. I also thank the local branch members and supporters who helped spread the Labor message to every corner of the Sandgate electorate. Whether that was through doorknocking, letterboxing, street stalling, phone calling or having a sign in their yard, together we knocked on thousands of doors and made thousands of phone calls.

I particularly want to acknowledge one campaign volunteer, Fran Ross, who is now waging another campaign: a campaign against breast cancer. Thanks also must go to my electorate staff, Avalon MacKellar and Bronson Thomas, who have worked long hours to support me in my role as local member. I would also like to thank Genevieve Newton for her longstanding support in various roles over the years.

I would like to thank my fellow members of our local Labor team: Wayne Swan, the federal member for Lilley, and Councillor Jared Cassidy, councillor for the Deagon ward. Wayne has recently announced that he will not recontest the next federal election, earning more well-deserved time with his family. His personal advice, mentorship and support has always been invaluable, but his service as a north side advocate, as a national leader and a giant of the Labor movement in Queensland in particular is inestimable.

I would also like to thank the Queensland union movement for their ongoing support, particularly the Australian Workers' Union; the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association; the Transport Workers Union and the Plumbers Union. I pay tribute to the work that they do in advancing the interests of working people right across the state, particularly in the face of hysterical and relentless attacks from the Turnbull government in Canberra.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank my wife Megan and our three children Jack, Tom and May. They have always been a steadfast support to me and, as members will understand, perhaps feel the ups and downs of public life even more than those of us with very thick skins.

In my first speech as the member for Sandgate I spoke about the area's unique history as a seaside retreat for Brisbane, and many people still make the journey out to the suburbs of Brighton, Sandgate, Deagon and Shorncliffe to soak up the relaxed seaside village atmosphere. More recently, urban growth has meant that many people have made their homes in emerging areas in parts of Bracken Ridge, Taigum, Bald Hills and Fitzgibbon. These areas boast strong community spirit and are home to vibrant multicultural communities.

In my first term as their MP, during the campaign and since the election I have talked to residents at their doors, on the phone, in the street and at local gathering places. They value decent front-line services, investment in community groups and infrastructure development. They know that only Labor governments have delivered for the area in this regard and will continue to in the future. They will not forget the damage inflicted on them when so many of those opposite were senior members of the Newman government. As such, the LNP's disinterest in, and in fact disdain for, the Sandgate electorate was made so clear in the last election when they waited until the eleventh hour to field a candidate. Conversely, the Premier, other government ministers and I took the opportunity to make a suite of commitments that will have broad benefits for Sandgate. I look forward to delivering on these commitments in this parliament.

These commitments include: undertaking a feasibility study for the Beams Road rail line overpass; planning for the Linkfield Road/Gympie Arterial interchange upgrade; delivering a new \$5.5 million home for basketball on the north side in nearby Zillmere, something that I know many members appreciate I have been an advocate of for many years; a \$180 million extension to Skilling Queenslanders for Work, something that has delivered great benefits for people right across the Sandgate electorate; 70 new nurse navigators and 18 new midwives in the Metro North Hospital and Health Service area; \$5.8 million for the new Bracken Ridge and Districts Fire and Rescue Station; and further restoring front-line services at the Brighton health campus, reinvigorating it in the Eventide tradition that was so badly damaged under the Newman government.

I said earlier that it was a great honour to return as the member for Sandgate, but it is also a great privilege to return to the cabinet of this state. Already I have immersed myself into my portfolios of local government, racing and multicultural affairs. I acknowledge the great work performed in those portfolios by the previous ministers, the honourable members for South Brisbane, Ferny Grove and McConnel.

As a member of the Palaszczuk government that listens to our valued stakeholders, I have already met with mayors from Brisbane, Bundaberg, Townsville, Cairns and on Palm Island just to name a few. I look forward to building on the solid foundations that I have already laid in my relationship with the Local Government Association of Queensland, led by the inimitable Greg Hallam and of course their president, Councillor Mark Jamieson.