



Speech By  
**Bruce Saunders**


**MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 February 2019

**MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Maryborough Electorate**

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (2.52 pm): I echo the words of the member for Stretton and, from the people of Maryborough, I pass on our regards to the people of Townsville and North Queensland. Maryborough knows what it is like to go through a flood. We went through various floods over a couple of years. Our thoughts, not only mine and those of my office staff but also those of the people of the Maryborough electorate, are with the people of Townsville.

It has been four years since the Palaszczuk government came to power in Queensland, and I am here today to talk about the great work that has happened in the Maryborough electorate. Let us talk about the trains. Two weeks ago I had the privilege to stand beside the member for Miller and welcome the first NGR train to Maryborough for the rectification work.

**Mr CRANDON:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It does not appear that the clock is running. We do not want to give this speaker too much time.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Pugh): Thank you very much, member for Coomera. The clock is now running. The member for Maryborough can resume his speech.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I would like to thank the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the member for Miller, Minister Bailey, because this is a game-changer for the Maryborough community. This is a brilliant decision by the Palaszczuk government. This is a \$336 million contract. These trains will enable the work to continue at the Downer factory in Maryborough for many years to come.

If we listen to the other side, they say management and unions cannot work together. This was a collaboration of the management of Downer, the AMWU—great work from the delegate on site, Pete Killeen, and a fantastic job by the state secretary, Rohan Webb—and also the local community. It is great to work collaboratively to get the NGR trains to Maryborough. It is a fantastic shot in the arm for the Maryborough community.

A lot has happened in the four years since the Palaszczuk government has come to power and we can see the great change in the great city of Maryborough. It was once heading towards becoming like the city of Detroit; now it is back as the jewel in the Wide Bay crown because of the Palaszczuk government. We need only look at the \$14 million upgrade to Maryborough Hospital and the A&E which is halfway completed. It is absolutely fantastic. Credit should go to the former health minister and the current health minister who have done a marvellous job in making sure that the health facilities in Maryborough are A1. We can also look at Maryborough High. I see the former education minister sitting here. We opened the \$5 million performing arts hall late last year in November. It is a great bonus for Maryborough High. These are the things that have happened in four years in the Maryborough electorate under the Palaszczuk government.

The minister and I were looking at the brand-new wharf on the Mary River—a \$1.5 million commitment from the Palaszczuk government. The March Street jetty has been damaged since the last flood. The former LNP member was always going to do something about it. Who has funded and

delivered this? The Palaszczuk government has. This is a game-changer for the Maryborough CBD. It will enable bigger boats to come up the river. The minister has listened to the people of Maryborough. The jetty will be longer, so we can get bigger boats in. It has three levels, so we can get large, small and medium sized boats up to the wharf. I thank the minister very much because we can now utilise the Mary River to bring more people into the Maryborough CBD. We can then show them the Duncan Chapman memorial. Once again, the greater funding for that came from the Palaszczuk government, which has revitalised the Maryborough CBD.

These things would not have happened if we did not have a Palaszczuk Labor government. This government has delivered in spades for the Maryborough electorate. We are talking about vital infrastructure that was needed. It was talked about for the three years of the LNP but was never delivered. It has been delivered by this government.

There is the upgrade of the intersection on Pialba-Burrum Heads Road near two schools, one being Yarrilee State School. That road is a major thoroughfare. Once again, that upgrade was funded and delivered by the Palaszczuk government. I congratulate the minister because things like that make a big change in people's lives. They are now no longer frightened to drop their children off at school or go through that intersection. It is a game changer.

We hear the other side talk and talk and talk but we have not seen any policy from them. We have not seen what they are going to do in 2020 or what they are leading up to. What I can say is that they will mirror the chaotic federal government that we have now that are cutting services to my electorate daily. They are hiding behind every bush they can find. They are blaming everyone else but their own chaotic federal government that we have in federal parliament at the moment.

In the Wide Bay area, which the Maryborough electorate is part of, we desperately need a change. It is time for a change. It has been 45 years since we have had a decent federal member for Wide Bay. We need a new member for Wide Bay. If we can get a federal member for Wide Bay who will replicate the work of the Palaszczuk government, we will have a bumper year in the electorate of Maryborough and in the electorate of Wide Bay.