



Speech By  
**Bruce Saunders**


**MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 February 2019

**MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Maryborough Electorate**

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (2.30 pm): Before I inform the House and the great constituents of Maryborough about what is happening in my electorate, I want to congratulate the Fraser Coast Regional Council's Australia Day award recipients. The Citizen of the Year, or 'senior citizen of the year'—I know he will laugh at that—is a great mate of mine, Greig Bolderrow. Greig is the 'senior citizen of the year' for the Fraser Coast. He is a fantastic bloke. He is one of the leaders in our tourism industry on the Fraser Coast. Greig is head of the Fraser Coast tourism board and he is also one of the drivers behind the Duncan Chapman Memorial in Maryborough. Greig is a fantastic man. I have worked for Greig. He has been my boss. We get on quite well. He said the other day to Minister Enoch that I turned up for work every day. He did not say that I worked for him but that I turned up for work every day.

The Fraser Coast Regional Council's Young Citizen of the Year is Karen Boulton. She was a member of the Youth Parliament in 2018. What a tremendous ambassador this young lady is for the Fraser Coast. Karen has been one of the youngest members of the Youth Parliament. She did a fantastic job as the youth member. She comes from a great family and is a very good ambassador for our coast.

I want to talk about education and continue the journey the Maryborough electorate has been on since the Palaszczuk government was elected. It has been fantastic. We hear from the other side about a divide. They only have two members outside of Brisbane. They have Bundaberg. I forgot about Gregory. Then we move up north. They have about three members in regional Queensland. When they talk about regional Queensland, I do not know where they are talking about.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Maryborough, you have the call.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I see the former education minister sitting in the House here today, and the current minister has continued in the same vein as the former minister in terms of spending on education throughout Queensland.

When we look at the upgrades to the schools in the Maryborough electorate, they have been nothing but amazing. Education is the key to lifting electorates like mine, to make sure that we have a skilled workforce and that children have the opportunity to go on to university and to do a trade. Sunbury State School has been upgraded. Granville State School has been upgraded by the Palaszczuk government. The Palaszczuk government has funded a STEM room at the Albert State School—something that has been sadly lacking. We have a great principal at Albert State School in Principal Phil. This is money that has been spent on education by the Palaszczuk government.

Thanks to the Minister for Transport, in conjunction with the Fraser Coast Regional Council, we have a new car park at Aldridge State High School. It will now be easier for parents and students to access that school.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work has been a great program and has helped a lot of people in the Maryborough electorate. It is one of the programs that in 2015 the Palaszczuk government committed to bring back. This program has done great work in the Maryborough electorate.

The Back to Work program has helped 18,000 people across Queensland. Out of those 18,000 people, 1,164 have found work on the Fraser Coast. I know quite a few of these young people who have been given an opportunity to find work as a result of the Back to Work program. It is a great program. We know that those on the other side of the House do not want people to work because they did not back this program. This program has enabled people, and young people who I know, to get back to work.

Then there is the Works for Queensland program with regional councils. In my area, the Palaszczuk government has delivered on the Works for Queensland program. If you look around the Fraser Coast, you will see the work that is happening in conjunction with the Fraser Coast Regional Council—footpaths, sewerage upgrades, intersection upgrades. This is all money coming to the regional councils from the Palaszczuk government.

If you look at the Maryborough CBD, the Maryborough CBD looked like Beirut after the civil war. Now it is a CBD that we can be proud of thanks to the Palaszczuk Labor government. This is what this government does. We are reinvesting in regional Queensland—reinvesting in electorates like the Maryborough electorate. We are not the wealthiest electorate in the state. With Works for Queensland and the money from the Palaszczuk government, we are now getting things done. We are starting to lift the electorate. I am so proud to be part of this Labor government.