



Speech By  
**Bruce Saunders**


**MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH**

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Record of Proceedings, 4 April 2019

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Maryborough Electorate; Federal Budget, Hinkler Regional Deal**

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (2.51 pm): Earlier this week in parliament we passed lemon laws, but that was not good enough to protect the Maryborough electorate from two lemons: the federal budget and the Hinkler deal. We have been served lemons! First of all, let me talk about the federal budget. It is still \$11.5 million for the WBHHS, so let's try and understand this. The state government has paid for the services conducted by the WBHHS. We have sent the invoices over to the federal government and it put them on the backburner. It has been nearly 30 months now since the state government paid the invoices. That is \$11.5 million out of the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service. Those are services that are being cut to ordinary people in the Maryborough electorate.

When we look at the Hinkler deal, this is the first deal that does not go on geographical area: it goes on electorate. We have heard about *Saving Private Ryan* but this is about saving Keith Pitt, because he is gone. I was lectured the other day about how good it is and what we are missing out in the Maryborough electorate. The member for Burnett took us for a tour. I do not know if he knows anything about the Maryborough electorate, but he took me for a tour. He did not understand that this is not good for the Maryborough electorate. Once again, this is the LNP putting public money into private pockets and looking after its mates. There is nothing for ordinary people in the electorate.

What about the \$44 million upgrade at the intersection of Maryborough Road and Pialba-Burrum Heads Road? There is not a dollar for that. What about the waterworks at Howard and Torbanlea? There is not a dollar for that. Then we have Oregon Creek on Pialba-Burrum Heads Road, which the member forgot to mention, that floods. It is going to cost \$24 million to raise the road. There is not one dollar for that. Once again, public money is going into private pockets. That is all they are doing. They are looking after their mates. This is about saving Keith Pitt. This is all about Keith Pitt.

When I spoke to the Assistant Minister for Treasury months ago I said that I would not be part of this deal. It should include the whole of the Wide Bay. It is ironic. When you get the mayor of the North Burnett—who, by the way, is not a Labor person—saying that the deal stinks, you know it pongs to high heaven. You know there is trouble with this deal when you have one of their own saying it is not fair dinkum. How can they stand there and say that this deal is great for the Maryborough electorate? We know when we are served lemons.