




Speech By
Bruce Saunders

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

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ADJOURNMENT

Maryborough Electorate

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (6.15 pm): ‘Mary’ is making a comeback. That is the word on the street in Maryborough. The next few weeks are going to be very exciting times in the great city of Maryborough, which is one of the oldest manufacturing cities in this great state and this great country. On 28 October we will start off with community forums in Maryborough, with 20 regional people from right around the Wide Bay. Ministers will be there to listen to the people about how we can move the area forward and what they believe the area needs. It is fantastic that this Palaszczuk Labor government is talking to the people. We are going back to the people in regional Queensland and talking to them.

On 4 November cabinet is coming to Maryborough. How excited am I about getting the cabinet to Maryborough! I would like to thank the Premier, Deputy Premier and cabinet members. When I approached them about holding a cabinet meeting in Maryborough, the Premier told me she would look at it. The next day she came back and said, ‘We can do it.’ This is great news for the city of Maryborough. We will be able to highlight our great city to all of the cabinet members. I am looking forward to having the cabinet in Maryborough so that I can highlight what has happened since the Palaszczuk government was elected.

Maryborough was regarded as the Detroit of Queensland before the Palaszczuk government came into power in 2015, but look at the highlights of Maryborough now: the Downer contract, upgrades to the Maryborough Hospital and roadworks throughout the electorate. This government’s expenditure in schools in the Maryborough electorate include in excess of \$16.5 million for a new performing arts hall at Maryborough high. I recently inspected the brand-new kitchen at Maryborough high. I am proud to announce that we will have an afternoon tea there and the students from Maryborough high will cater it out of the new kitchen provided by the Palaszczuk Labor government.

This is all good news. I would like to thank the *Fraser Coast Chronicle* also, because they have been running a series of stories called ‘Mary’s making a comeback’ about some of the positive stories that are happening. These positive stories have happened because of the Palaszczuk Labor government because we are investing in regional Queensland. We are investing in Wide Bay. That is why these things are happening in the great city of Maryborough.

On 6 December we have another great thing happening in Maryborough: the 150th anniversary of Downer. It was originally called Walkers and then it went to Walkers EDI. Downer has taken over the facility. They have been making trains there for 150 years, and on 6 December we will all be there celebrating. I will be one of the first through the gates with my hardhat on. I will make sure that I sit at the barbecue with the 242 Downer workers who are very proud of the Palaszczuk government because we kept them in work.