



Speech By  
**Bruce Saunders**


**MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 November 2019

**MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Maryborough Electorate, Community Cabinet**

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (2.30 pm): Let me tell members what is happening in the great city of Maryborough, which is one of the greatest cities in the state and one of the oldest electorates in the state. It was my privilege to have the Premier, the Deputy Premier and members of cabinet in Maryborough on 4 and 5 November. What a great time it was. About 320 people turned up to an afternoon tea to meet the Premier, Deputy Premier and members of cabinet. It was a great afternoon tea.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I take that interjection. There is nothing free about this side of the House. We work. We are not like the members of the LNP who put their noses in the trough for free drinks, lamingtons and cakes. We are workers and we defend workers.

A great time was had in Maryborough. We announced our policy to extend the timber agreement for a further two years. This is fantastic for the Maryborough community. This means 500 jobs will be saved in and around the Maryborough electorate. Curly Tatnell from DTM Timber is a good mate of mine and a very good resident and employer who employs many people in the community. On 7 November the *Fraser Coast Chronicle* reported—

Mr Tatnell said he had never encountered such support for timber from a Labor government as he was now experiencing with the Queensland government.

I will repeat that in case those opposite missed it—

Mr Tatnell said he had never encountered such support for timber from a Labor government as he was now experiencing with the Queensland government.

I hope those opposite heard that. When the community tried to get a policy out of the LNP, which was going on about this, the shadow minister said they did not have a policy yet—they will make it up as they go along—but told them not to worry about the 550 jobs. The LNP will bag the Labor government. Those opposite are baggers; they are white ants. None of them come to the table with solutions to help their communities.

Thanks to the transport minister we were able to preserve something very rare in our community. I would like to personally thank the minister. There are only four bomb shelters left in Queensland and we have two in Maryborough. One of the bomb shelters was in decay and was falling apart. Because of the great work of a champion of the community, Donna Hosken, along with Greg Bolderrow and myself, this bomb shelter has been fully restored. It is part of our heritage trail. It is a monument in Maryborough that we could not afford to lose. I made representations to the minister about its restoration. The difference between our side of the House and the other side of the House is that the minister listened, took action and gave us the money to restore this bomb shelter. I hear the other side laughing about a bomb shelter. It might not mean anything to them, but in my community this is something very special.

The bomb shelter is on railway land in Maryborough. It was for first-class passengers only. Maryborough was a significant site during World War II. If planes were coming over, the bomb shelter was only for the use of first-class passengers. Other passengers could not use it.

There is more good news—it is just good news week in Maryborough—in that the unemployment rate in Wide Bay is 7.4 per cent. We have heard those opposite carp on about the unemployment rate. The unemployment rate in Wide Bay was 10.5 per cent when those opposite were in government. They cut, sacked and sold. We knew what they were doing. They were walking around with a big machete chopping centres like Maryborough and regional Queensland.

The unemployment rate of 7.4 per cent is due to this government's policy of creating jobs in regional Queensland. The Palaszczuk government is creating regional jobs. At the moment in my great city, the greatest city in Queensland, unemployment is falling due to this government making sure that we are backing industry and the Fraser Coast Regional Council with programs such as Works for Queensland, Back to Work and Skilling Queenslanders for Work. This is a traditional Labor government looking after regional Queensland. We deliver, we do not cut, sack and sell, and we do not sit there and whine, which is all those opposite do. Queenslanders are awake to this LNP.