




Speech By
Meaghan Scanlon

MEMBER FOR GAVEN

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ADJOURNMENT

Gaven Electorate

 **Ms SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (6.27 pm): Today is the fourth anniversary of the Palaszczuk government and it is also Valentine's Day, so I wanted to take this opportunity to show how much love this government has shown for the Gold Coast over the last four years. One of my first tasks shortly after being elected was announcing that light rail stage 2 would be opening on time and on budget, providing a great Christmas present for so many locals in 2017. We are delivering four M1 upgrades, with work happening right now between Mudgeeraba and Varsity Lakes and the Gateway merge. We have duplicated the heavy rail from Helensvale to Coomera station. We invested \$160 million to upgrade key local road infrastructure in preparation for the Commonwealth Games.

We are heavily investing in education, boosting the number of teachers and teacher aide hours as well as delivering new infrastructure like the nearly \$800,000 investment resource centre upgrade at Pacific Pines State High School and a \$670,000 upgrade of the special education Grevillea block at Pacific Pines State Primary School.

Quality health care is at the heart and soul of every Labor government. That is why we have been restoring front-line services, employing over 650 extra nurses and 180 extra doctors on the Gold Coast since 2015. I recently met Carmen when I was out doorknocking. Carmen was one of the many Gold Coast health staff members who lost her job under the Newman government. These cuts were not just numbers; they were real people in our communities. Carmen has recently had to rely on our world-class health facility and had only good things to say about the treatment that she received.

It was a Labor government that had the foresight to bid for the Commonwealth Games and it was this Labor government that delivered the hugely successful event. Not only did we showcase the Gold Coast to the world; we invested heavily in facilities and infrastructure which will leave a long lasting legacy for years to come. We invested in the Nerang Mountain Bike Trails and the Carrara Sports Precinct—two world-class sporting facilities in my electorate that are now being enjoyed by locals and utilised for events that bring thousands of people to our growing city. We invested in the shared pathway connecting this sporting precinct to the Nerang train station, allowing locals and tourists to cycle, walk or skate to and from the precinct.

As assistant minister for tourism industry development I have been incredibly proud of the efforts to secure a T20 match as well as three BBL matches at Metricon Stadium thanks to our investment in lighting and the drop-in pitch. I could rattle off a number of other projects that the Palaszczuk government has invested in. However, we would be here for longer than three minutes. I am proud of the work that this government is doing in building a bigger and better M1 and delivering for our local schools and hospitals. I conclude by wishing my electorate a happy Valentine's Day. I love representing the community that I grew up in and will continue working day in and day out for the needs of my area.