




Speech By
Bruce Saunders

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Downer Maryborough, 150th Celebration

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (2.39 pm): It has been five years since the Palaszczuk government came to power and the great electorate of Maryborough has been moving forward since. Friday, 6 December was a fantastic day for the great city of Maryborough. It was the 150th celebration of Downer, which was formerly Walkers Ltd. There are not too many companies or manufacturing plants in this state or this country that have been around for 150 years.

It was a fantastic day. I would like to thank the Premier and the member for Miller, the transport minister, for coming up and mixing with the crew, the board, the general manager of Downer and the Queensland manager of Downer, Andrew Slawson. I thank Mayor George Seymour, Deputy Mayor Darren Everard and Councillors Truscott and Sanderson for being there. I also thank the AMWU that has played a major part in making sure this plant stays alive, in particular Rohan Webb and the head delegate at Downer Pete Kaleen.

It was a fantastic morning to celebrate a \$300 million contract that will keep this plant in work for the next 10 to 11 years. It will maintain in excess of 400 jobs in my community.

Ms Jones: Good jobs.

Mr SAUNDERS: I take that interjection. They are good jobs. They are hardworking people. This plant is the economic heartbeat of Maryborough city. The Palaszczuk Labor government has kept this Downer plant alive with contracts.

I thank the minister personally because a lot of work of his department and himself has gone into making sure this plant is kept alive. Downer in Maryborough is the world leader in rail manufacturing and maintenance. To see some of the work that they have turned out over the years makes me so proud to represent the men and women of Downer. When one walks through the Downer plant with the men and women there one sees their pride in the work that they are turning out. They turnout world-class work.

We only need to look at the tilt train. It travelled five million kilometres and they did not have to put a spanner on it. I wish I could get a car that would do five million kilometres without a spanner being put on it. One sees the pride of the men and women who are taking part in the NGR rectification work. That work was put together by the minister and the Premier and it is being done by a very proud Australian company at a Queensland manufacturing plant.

I thoroughly enjoyed mixing with the staff and walking around with the staff and the Premier and minister. We were talking to them and shared their optimism. Last week Downer put on a record number of apprentices. That is due to this Palaszczuk traditional Labor government.