




Speech By
Bruce Saunders

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

Record of Proceedings, 3 December 2020

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (2020-2021) BILL

APPROPRIATION (2020-2021) BILL

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (4.23 pm): Isn't it great to speak in the debate after the member for Chatsworth? Do new members of this chamber remember the member for Chatsworth and tough love? Remember the tough love: 14,000 public servants losing jobs and waiting lists at hospitals blowing out, but Queenslanders need this tough love. I have a message for the member for Chatsworth: on 31 October Queenslanders did not want your tough love. They rejected it. You talk about losers. Let us talk about the 50-odd LNP losers who did not make it into this chamber. If you want to talk about losers—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Maryborough, could you ensure you address your comments through the chair, please.

Mr SAUNDERS: I am sorry, Mr Deputy Speaker, but when you are talking about the member for Chatsworth you lose it a bit. It is not hard to do.

Let us talk about the budget. Today we have learnt Janetzk economics. Remember Roger economics. Now we have a new sets of economics coming through.

Ms Bates: Called 'Labornomics'.

Mr SAUNDERS: I will take the interjection from the member for Mudgeeraba. Labor economics are good. Let us talk about that. Look at a seat like Maryborough. Maryborough is alive now thanks to the Palaszczuk Labor government. I will go on to my favourite subject. Everyone on my side of the House knows what I am talking about. I am talking about trains. There is a \$600 million investment in trains.

I really felt sorry for the LNP candidate for Maryborough because on the Thursday night when the LNP released their costings there was not a thing for trains. He had been spruiking on the campaign trail for months: 'We are going to be building trains in Maryborough.' I have never in my life seen a more defeated candidate on that Thursday night pick up his water bottle and walk away after he read the costings of the future LNP government.

Maryborough did not buy it, as we know. Let us talk about the \$600 million investment in trains. Some 690 jobs will be created in Maryborough thanks to the Palaszczuk Labor government. These are Queensland trains. When everyone in Brisbane rides the trains—this is why I love Cross River Rail—they will be sitting on seats made somewhere in Queensland. They will be sitting on a train that is made by Queenslanders for Queenslanders. They will not be sitting on a train made in India for Queenslanders—trains that had to come to Maryborough to be fixed because they did not comply with disability standards and they leaked. Do members want me to keep going? I could spend 12 minutes speaking without getting out of the first carriage. We have another five carriages to go. That is what I am talking about. The people of Maryborough understood and the people of Queensland understood that we are building trains for Queenslanders in Queensland—in Maryborough, the train capital.

What about the comments of the New South Wales Premier? What a gem she was during the election campaign. She said, 'We don't build trains in Australia.' I have a message for her. I sent a message to the New South Wales Premier. They are always saying how good the budget is in New South Wales and what they are going to do. I sent a message to the New South Wales Premier. I said, 'Come up to Queensland when the borders are open. I will invite you up to Maryborough and show you that the best trains in the world are built in Maryborough.' I would pay for the bus trip up. I notice she never accepted the invite from me, the member for Maryborough, to come up and have a look at the best trains in the world which are built in Maryborough. Some 690 jobs will be created in Maryborough. Those opposite talk about no jobs being created. There are 690 jobs I can talk about straightaway.

There is \$692 million for the Health budget. That is a budget increase of \$8½ million for the Maryborough, Hervey Bay and Bundaberg hospitals. It is absolutely brilliant.

Ms Boyd: You're more lively now than when he was giving his speech in reply.

Mr SAUNDERS: I will take that interjection from the member for Pine Rivers. Those opposite are a bit lively. Look at them over there. No wonder Queenslanders rejected them. Have a look at them. They have no plan for Queensland. The last time they had a plan for Queensland, what did we lose? We lost 14,000 public servants and hospital waiting lists blew out. We got the pooper scooper. Pooper scoopers went well. They sold well for the former premier.

We are talking about this budget. This is a good budget.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members on my left.

Mr SAUNDERS: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I do not need protection from lettuce leaves. This budget is good for rural and regional Queensland. Fifty-eight per cent of this budget is going to be spent in regional Queensland—on roadworks and on manufacturing jobs to build trains in Maryborough and jobs in the supply chain in Townsville, Rockhampton, Cairns and Ipswich. They would not even think about making sure that we had Queensland trains for Queenslanders to sit on. That is the problem. We have an incompetent opposition over there. There are no other words to describe them.

Mr Millar: Where's the cane from Maryborough going to go now?

Mr SAUNDERS: I hear the member for Gregory talking about the canegrowers. We have been working with the canegrowers.

Mr Perrett interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: I take the interjection of the member for Gympie. I will give an invitation to the member for Gympie: every time you come to Maryborough my vote goes up, so would you like to come next week? I love it when the member for Gympie comes to Maryborough. The member for Gympie comes up and tells Maryborough people how they should live and how they should work. The member for Gympie should come back to Maryborough. He is welcome any time.

The budget is a good budget for Maryborough. There is investment in schools, the TAFE college, roadworks, health care and building trains. The Works for Queensland budget is money that councils cannot afford. I hope the Assistant Minister for Local Government will come up next year to open the water park. This is a \$3 million investment from the Palaszczuk government to the Fraser Coast Regional Council for a water park in Maryborough—something that we have all been fighting for. This is what Labor governments do. Labor governments invest in their communities. They put money in their communities. They do not take money out. They do not posture and talk about what they could do or should do. We deliver for regional Queensland. We deliver for our communities.

In the budget my community is getting a new fire station. This fire station is a \$12 million investment. Not only that; the timber for the fire station is coming locally from the Hyne's glulam factory. How do you beat that? We are producing the timber. We are keeping jobs at the glulam factory. We are building a new state-of-the-art fire and emergency service centre in Maryborough.

This is what Labor does. We make sure that everyone is looked after. We do not leave anyone behind. We are not the white-shoe brigade who walk around and look after their mates. We make sure that no-one in our community is left behind. That is what this budget does.

In all the years I have been in politics I have never seen an opposition as bad as the one we have now. Look at what happened on 31 October. Have a look at those opposite. They do not even take up half the chamber over there anymore. That is because the Queensland people have had enough of the negativity. They have had enough of the politics of hate. They are talking about services that this government and this budget is delivering.

We are delivering for regional Queensland. We are making sure that every child in the Maryborough electorate has an opportunity to go to school and to study because we know that education is crucial to lifting people, to making sure that they can get jobs and travel not only around Queensland but around the country and the world.

This budget continues the great spend in education in Maryborough. It continues the upgrade of Maryborough State High School. It continues the upgrade of Sunbury State School. It continues the upgrade of St Helens State School. It continues all of the upgrades to the schools in my electorate, and that will enhance my electorate.

When it comes to road upgrades, people in my electorate are pulling me up all the time complaining that there are now too many roadworks because we are making sure that the roads are of a good standard, and I congratulate the minister. We only have to look around Maryborough to see the upgrades to intersections on state controlled roads and to the highway. There is money set aside for the road to Howard. There is money in the budget to start the Tiaro bypass.

Mr Perrett: Four lanes.

Mr SAUNDERS: I hear the interjection about four lanes. That was one of the big things that the LNP took to the election—‘We want four lanes.’ I do not want to be rude to the member for Gympie, but we won Tiaro—and he is talking about four lanes! People know that if we waited for the federal government to commit money for four lanes it would never happen. The minister has taken action. We are getting a bypass around Tiaro—something that I have fought for since I have been elected. We are getting the new bridge over Saltwater Creek Road. We are getting upgrades to all of our intersections. We are getting an upgrade to Pialba Burrum Heads Road. These things are happening because of a Palaszczuk Labor government—a government that is for the people. We are not a government just for the few, like those opposite.

There are so many other things that we are doing in my great electorate of Maryborough. I keep going back to the building of trains. This has given our community a lift. This has made Maryborough a hive of activity. People are wanting to come and open up businesses in Maryborough. New shops are opening.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: I take the interjection of the member for Nanango, the former leader of the LNP. They did not want her in Queensland. The vote was that low it was below basement level. They did not want you or your policies, through the chair. They did not want the member for Nanango or her party. They did not want them across Queensland. That is why you are still on the opposition benches. You have not learnt anything yet. You have not learnt what people want. People want services. People want schools. People want road upgrades. People want jobs. They do not want cut, sack and sell. They do not want the Campbell Newman era. They do not want tough love. They do not want to go to a hospital and have to wait for hours because of the cutbacks. That is what happened under Campbell Newman.

Ms Boyd: Waiting lists for the waiting lists.

Mr SAUNDERS: They had waiting lists for the waiting lists. We know what they got up to. We know what they hid during their term in government. Sometimes you have to take these bitter pills. I know it is hard. Sometimes you have to sit back, reflect and have a look at yourself and say, ‘We want to go back to basics. We want to understand what the Queensland people want.’ On this side of the House, we know what Queensland people want. They want health care. They want jobs. They want education. That is what they want. That is what they voted for on 31 October. They did not vote for the Janetzki new economic plan. They did not vote for that, and they will not vote for that because they know how important education is to them. They know how hard it is to go to hospital. They know how important it is to go to hospital. They also know how great the Premier was during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: They think that is funny. That is why they are on the opposition benches. That is why they are going to stay there. That is why the former leader of the opposition could not lead them. That is why she has been dropped from being the leader. They do not understand Queenslanders. They have no understanding of Queenslanders.

This is a good budget for the Maryborough electorate. This is a good budget for Queenslanders. This is a very good budget. I thank the Treasurer because he has done a great job in very difficult times. It is easy to sit back and throw rocks when you have nothing to offer. We will make sure that no-one gets left behind in our community. This is what a traditional Labor government does. We make sure that we look after health care, education and jobs and that no-one gets left behind.

We know that we are heading for some tough times as we come out of COVID-19. Queenslanders voted. They know who they want behind the steering wheel of this car as we come out of these tough times. They wanted the Treasurer. They wanted the Premier. They wanted a Labor government to steer them out of these tough times. That is the difference between us and them. The Queensland people know that a Labor government always puts Queenslanders first, before our mates. We do not put public money into public profits. I commend the bill to the House.