




Speech By
Kim Richards

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

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ADJOURNMENT

Redlands Electorate

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (7.03 pm): It is a great privilege to stand in this place to represent my Redlands community. In my first speech in this parliament I promised the people of the Redlands that I would be the strong voice that our community deserves. I said that I would listen, engage, work hard and fight for the needs of my community. They put their faith, hope and trust in me and our Palaszczuk team to deliver for Redlanders, and that is just what we have been doing. I wanted Redlanders to know that I would always represent them in the best interests of our entire community and that those interests would be at the centre of my thoughts and at the heart of all of my activities and representation. It has been an absolute privilege to work with my community and to advocate for, support and lead my community. In my first speech I also said that I believe a measure of one's success is the legacy ultimately left behind. Whether I have only this short term of two years and 10 months or I am honoured to be here longer, I will continue to work to deliver a legacy that my entire Redlands community can be proud of.

So far, together we have achieved fantastic outcomes. We are a strong community and we work together. I want to touch on some of the fantastic outcomes we have achieved. At Redland Hospital the Palaszczuk government is making a record investment in our once-small country hospital with a new \$50 million carpark and a new \$62 million intensive care unit and 32-bed ward. That is not a promise; we are delivering that. This year we opened an upgraded emergency department and new birthing suites that are world class. That is in stark contrast to the LNP. They sacked doctors, they sacked nurses, they closed Wynnum hospital and they ignored Redland Hospital.

It has been one of my greatest joys to be a part of my school communities, from our amazing P&Cs to our incredible schoolteachers, students and staff. We have continued to deliver for our schools with over \$50 million for new classrooms, learning precincts, library upgrades, hall expansions, new halls and, importantly, air conditioning and solar for every Redlands school.

In roads and infrastructure again we have made record investment. For my Southern Moreton Bay Islands community \$34 million is being delivered for new ferry terminals and there is \$60 million to commence the stage 1 duplication of Cleveland Redland Bay Road. That road was ignored by the LNP government, which was on the record stating that they were not going to look at it until 2025.

Throughout the COVID crisis the Palaszczuk government has been there for all Queenslanders. We know that we cannot have a strong economy and rebound unless we get the health response right. On Sunday I saw firsthand how swiftly our government responds when a case tested positive on Russell Island. Metro South health staff were amazing. Within hours they had mobilised and established a pop-up fever clinic. I thank the entire Metro South health team. They are the front line. I also thank our SES and Redlands Coast Champions for providing them with incredible support. A huge thank you also goes to my island community. They were calm and responsive to being tested. The good news is that no further cases have tested positive.

To finish my last adjournment speech in the 56th Parliament, I would like to again express my deepest gratitude and thanks to the people of the Redlands for allowing me the opportunity to represent them. I love and care for my community and I will always put Redlands first.