




Speech By
Lance McCallum

MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

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ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (4.02 pm): It is both humbling and a great honour to rise in this place for the second time, in the same year, and to have won the trust and responsibility of representing the community of Bundamba. My first acknowledgement and deepest respect is to the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we gather, the Yuggera and the Turrbal peoples, their elders past, present and emerging. I am immensely proud to once again join my two deadly sisters, the members for Algeria and Cook, as the three First Nation members in the Palaszczuk Labor government.

I want to congratulate the Premier and acknowledge and congratulate the new members of this place, and particularly the members for Stafford, Pumicestone, Mundingburra, Caloundra, Bundaberg, Cooper and Nicklin. I wish to congratulate all returned members and pay tribute to the former members for South Brisbane, Stafford, Mundingburra and Cooper. I look forward to working with all members of the 57th Parliament to discuss and debate the laws and issues that matter to our communities and to Queensland.

It is good to see far more members physically present in this House compared to when I gave my inaugural speech in this place. We have come a long way over the short months since March 2020 when COVID really took hold, even though it may seem like a lifetime ago. Queensland has done, and continues to do, a remarkable job in working together to respond to the challenge of coronavirus. Under the considered and strong leadership of the Premier, acting on the expert medical advice of the Chief Health Officer, we are now in a position to look forward and start to rebuild and recover.

We are committed to keeping Queenslanders safe and in work, and we have a comprehensive plan that we took to the people of Queensland at the last election. Locally in Bundamba, the strength, resilience and spirit of our community has shone through during the course of the pandemic, including when the virus reappeared in our community only a few months ago. As we begin to rebuild our coronavirus impacted economy, never has it been more important to provide as many secure, local jobs as possible. As a government we are committed to doing that.

Our plan to keep Queenslanders safe includes continuing to invest in world-class health services in Bundamba. More than 450 new nurses, doctors and health professionals will support our local community under our commitment to hire 9,475 additional frontline health workers, as part of growing our record numbers of health workers across Queensland. We have also committed an additional \$46.5 million for new world-class health services at Ipswich Hospital which will deliver a brand new alcohol and drug rehabilitation service, a dedicated mental health and paediatrics area in the emergency department, a dedicated obstetric theatre and more renal dialysis and nephrology services. As part of our \$265 million commitment to build seven new satellite hospitals, \$40 million is set aside for one in our local Ipswich community which will provide services including: renal dialysis and chemotherapy; child health and youth services; and urgent care for minor injury and illness.

We are continuing to keep our community safe with 150 additional police officers and a brand new mobile police beat as part of the biggest investment in community safety in Queensland in over 30 years. We will also deliver a new ambulance station to service our local community in the fast-growing Ripley Valley and we will welcome a brand new fire station with full-time firefighters to support our local community, complementing existing services at Bundamba and Ripley, through a new station at Augustine Heights that will deliver more jobs for local tradies during construction and more jobs for firefighters and support staff once operational. We have kept Queenslanders safe during the pandemic and we are committed to record frontline emergency services to continue the job.

The Palaszczuk government will always invest and commit to providing world-class education. We have backed our local schools, students and staff and created jobs with over \$1 billion for new and upgraded facilities across our local community and right across Queensland. I am proud to recently be at the official opening of our new \$70 million Ripley Valley State Secondary College and the \$50 million Ripley Valley State School. I am pleased that tenders are soon to be called for the stage 2 expansions of the Ripley Valley State School and the Ripley Valley State Secondary College. This will support more than 120 jobs in our local community during construction. Stage 2 of the Ripley Valley State School will deliver additional prep spaces and classroom and the Ripley Valley State Secondary College will receive an information services centre, additional learning spaces, a science centre and a performing arts centre, with construction to start in 2020 or early 2021.

I was also very proud to celebrate the opening of St Ann's School in Redbank Plains recently. It will benefit from a further \$2 million funding boost to support the construction of a new D block, which will include four new classrooms, along with the conversion of the block A covered lunch area into two multipurpose spaces. Redbank State School will benefit from a \$500,000 upgrade for a new outdoor learning area as well as general refurbishments and more resources for this wonderful local school. We are delivering a further \$42 million for world-class education across our local community, including: additional classrooms at Bellbird Park State Secondary College; new classrooms at Fernbrooke State School; and upgraded parking at Redbank Plains State High School. We are also preparing for future growth, with funding for planning additional schools in Ripley, Redbank, Redbank Plains and Augustine Heights as part of our \$1 billion Great Schools, Great Future program.

We have also committed to a record 6,190 new teachers and 1,139 new teacher aides in this term of government and that means a world-class education for every child and supporting quality teachers in every school. Bundamba kids deserve a world-class education and, as our community continues to grow, I will continue fighting for the upgrades and investment needed for our local schools.

We have already invested \$400 million in the stage 1 upgrade of the Ipswich Motorway, which is on time and on budget and, critically, supporting over 470 jobs. We are getting on with a further \$400 million in upgrades to the Warrego Highway including the Mount Crosby interchange, plus important futureproofing planning, as well as safety upgrades to the Cunningham Highway and local roads.

Once again during this campaign I spent time at every train station in Bundamba talking to locals on their daily commute. It filled me with pride to hear the positive feedback from our community on the upgraded services that we have already delivered in my relatively short time as the member for Bundamba. This includes extra rail services, an accessibility upgrade to the platform at Redbank and the completion of our \$3 million expansion of the Ebbw Vale park-and-ride.

We are forging ahead with installing digital timetable screens at Redbank, Goodna and Dinmore stations. I am pleased to inform the House that the Bundamba train station will receive a full \$38 million upgrade including a new footbridge with lifts, raised platforms, accessible carparks and a new bike enclosure which is going to deliver 250 local jobs during construction. I am proud that we are making our publicly owned train network accessible for everyone, and our record \$23 billion transport and roads program will support 21,500 Queensland jobs.

In a big boost for community sport, our local clubs will share in \$90,000 under our Active Restart Infrastructure Recovery Fund. This means that the Raiders Softball Club, Central Districts Cricket Club, Collingwood Park Power, Goodna Netball, Goodna Gladiators Rugby Union, NexGen Roller Sports Club, Rebels Softball, Bundamba Strollers Cricket Club and Woogaroo Swimming Club will share in the purchase of new equipment and upgraded infrastructure. I want to send, and also place on record, my congratulations to the mighty Goodna Eagles for their recent victory in the Volunteer Cup in Ipswich.

I want to thank the members and officials of the Electrical Trades Union for their ongoing and unwavering support, led by the secretary Peter Ong. I am truly grateful for your support and belief in me and the Palaszczuk government. Back in March in my inaugural speech in this place I paid tribute to a friend and former state secretary of the ETU who was at the time continuing his longstanding battle

with cancer. It fills me with much grief and sadness to speak today of his passing. He was a leader whose vision, values and heart will continue to inspire many for years and decades to come. I extend my deepest condolences to Penny, Glenn and his family. Peter Simpson 'Simmo': 'I'll miss you, mate. Rest well. You've earned it.'

The prospect of losing a loved one is one of the hardest things. That is why we have committed \$171 million for more nurses, more resources and more care for individuals and families confronted with the reality of palliative care. We will also introduce laws for voluntary assisted dying so Queenslanders will be empowered to consider all options available, in consultation with their medical professionals, on what is a profoundly complex and personal journey.

I am also humbled to be given the additional responsibilities of being the Palaszczuk government's Assistant Minister for Hydrogen Development and the 50% Renewable Energy Target by 2030. Our plan for a strong and safe recovery includes \$51 billion in infrastructure that will deliver over 55,000 jobs—and renewables and hydrogen will be a key part of that.

Our 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030 target has been critical to delivering the lowest energy prices on the east coast. We have over 40 large-scale renewable energy projects worth over \$7.8 billion in investment that has delivered over 6,500 construction jobs. We have committed \$145 million to unlock three Queensland renewable energy zones—North Queensland, Central Queensland and South West Queensland. Locally in Bundamba we are putting solar on our public schools. We have record numbers of household PVs that are driving down people's electricity bills, and we have one of CleanCo's, our publicly owned clean energy company, generators right there in Bundamba. These zones will coordinate and foster renewables by supporting the delivery of transmission infrastructure and attracting industrial energy users to create more jobs in Queensland and particularly in regional Queensland.

We are well placed to be a world leader in both renewables and hydrogen. Hydrogen can deliver significant economic, employment, energy and environmental benefits. As part of our \$19 million Queensland Hydrogen Industry Strategy, our \$15 million Hydrogen Industry Development Fund is helping deliver essential pilot projects for this exciting new industry. We need to deliver industrial zones and hydrogen hubs powered with cheap and clean energy because that means more secure full-time manufacturing jobs. Hydrogen produced from renewable energy is widely considered to be the ultimate clean renewable fuel. With our abundant renewable resources, skilled workers and renowned know-how, we are perfectly poised to be the world leader. I very much look forward to supporting the minister, the member for Springwood, and the Premier and Deputy Premier in keeping Queensland at the forefront of both renewables and hydrogen.

I would also like to thank my family—my mother, Elizabeth; my father, Patrick; and my siblings—and my friends, particularly Susanne, Jagdeep, Pete and many more. Of course I need to acknowledge the unwavering support and work of my campaign team. To my campaign director, Stuart Traill: you did a magnificent job and I cannot thank you enough. To my local branch members and volunteers: you have my infinite depth of gratitude. A majority of you have been called on twice this year—first for the by-election in March and then for the general election that we have just had, with a pandemic thrown in the middle for good measure.

I also want to pay special tribute to one particular volunteer by the name of Thomas Campbell. This is a bloke who puts others above himself at all times and, in the face of great personal challenge and difficulty, was very generous with his time and his commitment to my campaign. Then he was unfortunately one of the victims of the election day storm that passed through Bellbird Park and Springfield. I particularly want to acknowledge Thomas and his family: thank you. I also want to acknowledge Milton Dick and Shayne Neumann for their support and the members for Ipswich, Ipswich West and Jordan. I look forward to continuing to work together to deliver for our community.

I am committed to working tirelessly to make Bundamba and Queensland a better place for all of us, regardless of who you happen to be or where you might come from. I am here to ensure that we get the services and infrastructure that our growing community deserves. I will continue to work for our community to ensure that it stays safe, has jobs and has the very best in services like education, training, healthcare and public transport.

The people of Bundamba have once again put their trust in me and the Palaszczuk government. I will continue to be a tireless fighter for our community and ensure that everyone gets a fair go—a fair go that means the opportunity to be able to work and live in a community where you and your family have access to quality services and can get help and support when you need it. That is what Bundamba will get from me and what Queensland will get from the Palaszczuk government.