




Speech By
Bruce Saunders

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Maryborough Electorate

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (2.15 pm): Last week the Minister for Health visited the Maryborough Hospital to announce \$12.3 million in upgrades to the Hervey Bay and Maryborough hospitals on the Fraser Coast. This will mean the reopening of ward 1, with an extra 18 beds, at Maryborough Hospital. This is very significant for not only the Maryborough community but also the coastal strip of Maryborough that the hospital services, in Tiaro and so on. The health minister was most welcome to make that very good announcement.

The other good announcement was of \$16.46 million in the rolled-gold Works for Queensland program to be spread across the Fraser Coast. I am looking forward to working with my councillors, the mayor and the deputy mayor to make sure the Maryborough electorate gets its fair share of Works for Queensland funding. Works for Queensland is a fantastic program which has delivered so many things for the region, particularly in my great city of Maryborough. We are getting a new water park. The other day I walked past the water park development and saw that it is really coming along.

The Palaszczuk government is putting money back into regional Queensland. We are providing jobs, health care and education and making sure people have the facilities they need—footpaths and so on. That is what Works for Queensland does.

When I talk to the councillors, mayor and deputy mayor, all they can talk about is how good Works for Queensland is—how it has taken the stress off their budgets and how they can do projects that are not necessarily big but that mean a lot to the community: footpaths, road crossings, access to shopping centres and public spaces and so on. That is what a good traditional Labor government does: invest in regional Queensland with jobs, health care, education and services.

As the local member, I very proud to say that we have reopened ward 1 of Maryborough Hospital. Ward 1 has been closed for many years; it has been sitting dormant. The provision of 18 extra beds is absolutely huge for our community.

I say to the Leader of the Opposition: keep up the emails. We love them, because we are picking up more members as a result. I absolutely love it when the LNP do these emails because it gives me a greater chance to talk to the people of my electorate and tell them how good the Palaszczuk government is doing in health care right across the Fraser Coast.

Before I sit down, I would like to wish the member for Southern Downs the best. He is a very good bloke. I hope that everything works out okay for him. It was very brave of him today to stand up and talk about his issues. On behalf of the Maryborough electorate I say that we hope everything goes well.