



Speech By  
**Bruce Saunders**

**MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 May 2021

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Maryborough Electorate, Fire Station**

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (2.15 pm): I am here to announce more great news for the great city of Maryborough—one of the oldest electorates and cities in Queensland. The minister is in the House. We have just signed the contract and got everything ready for the brand new, state-of-the-art timber fire station in Maryborough city—a \$12.5 million investment.

This is fantastic because all of the jobs will be local. The timber will come from the Hyne glulam factory. By the way, who helped get that glulam factory in Maryborough? The Palaszczuk Labor government. Who is building the new fire station? The Palaszczuk Labor government. The minister and QFES have been absolutely amazing.

We are keeping the heritage-listed brick facade of the building and we are building on to it. This is a state-of-the-art fire station for the region. It is going to transform the city not only for the workers, the firemen, the rural fires and the SES but also for the city centre. This building is going to highlight the city centre.

This is what a Palaszczuk Labor government—and I repeat: Labor government—does. We reinvest in regional Queensland. We have worked very hard with QFES, the minister's office and the Maryborough community to get the best building we possibly could.

The local timber comes from Hyne—it is grown in the electorate, it is processed in the electorate and it will be used in the Maryborough electorate. It will be the first timber fire station ever—so it is another first for the great city of Maryborough. It has been all great news for the city of Maryborough since 2015 when the Palaszczuk government came to power.

I have some really sad news. The federal member for Wide Bay has been talking about four-lane roads around Tiaro. He has been banging on about it and getting people signing petitions. What the federal member does not understand is that the funding is 80-20, and he cannot get the funding out of his government. It is very sad when we have an LNP federal member who cannot get money out of his own government for road safety and then continues—which is the sad part—to blame the state government.

As I have tried to explain to him—as have so many other people—the funding is 80-20. They have to put the money up for the four lanes around Tiaro. He can get signatures on as many petitions and beat his chest as much as he likes. As I always say, he does half a job. That is all he ever does—half a job. 'Half-a-job Lew' I call him. He is a lion in the Wide Bay but when he gets to Canberra he is a mouse. He squeaks along all day and just takes what is handed to him. That is why I am glad to be in the Palaszczuk government because we deliver, unlike the LNP.