




Speech By
Bruce Saunders

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

Record of Proceedings, 28 October 2021

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Railways, Manufacturing

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (2.52 pm): 20 October was a great day in Maryborough city. 20 October will go down in history—like yesterday has, as the day Billy Demaine, another great Maryboroughite, led the 'suicide squad' that got rid of the upper house in Queensland. On 20 October 2021, Maryborough came alive again. That was the day we had the Premier, the Treasurer and the transport minister in town to announce 65 sets of trains. Once again, the Palaszczuk government is delivering on its promises.

Mr Harper: Hear, hear!

Mr SAUNDERS: I take that interjection from the member for Thuringowa. During the 2020 election campaign, those opposite said that they did not want Cross River Rail, that there was nothing in Cross River Rail. The LNP candidate was running around. I felt sorry for him on the Thursday night before the election because when their costings came out, sure enough, they showed that trains were to be built overseas. It was like letting the air out of a balloon. He is a big man, but he disappeared. Now we are getting 65 sets of trains at a town called Torbanlea. Torbanlea is a great community in my electorate. The Torbanlea-Howard-Burrum district used to be home to the Burgowan coalmine and is a fantastic area. I have a great number of friends out there. I visit the Torbanlea Hotel quite a bit and hold 'politics in the pub' with the owner, John Grabbe, who is a very good mate of mine.

We will see this area blossom because of the Palaszczuk Labor government. This is the largest investment in rail infrastructure in Queensland, and it has been delivered by the Palaszczuk Labor government. As I said to people in the Maryborough electorate, if those opposite had been elected in 2020 we would have been like the locomotives for the Adani mine coming off the ship in Townsville. These trains were to be built overseas. We will have 800 jobs. I will repeat that for those opposite, because they are not good at mathematics: there will be 800 jobs in the Maryborough electorate, building trains for Cross River Rail. Members opposite are very quiet. They say that it is a white elephant.

I invite members opposite up to Torbanlea to do 'politics in the pub' and to talk to the people at Torbanlea. They should tell them that the 800 jobs are not needed in their community. It is a great investment from a great Labor government—a Labor government that is reinvesting in regional Queensland and reinvesting in manufacturing, keeping the manufacture of trains alive in Maryborough city in the Maryborough electorate.

Under the Palaszczuk government, the Maryborough electorate has come alive. It has gone back to its traditional base: manufacturing and timber. This could not have been done without the Palaszczuk Labor government. That is why those opposite will never win Maryborough again.