




Speech By
David Janetzki

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

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ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (6.23 pm): It is my privilege to rise once again as the member for Toowoomba South and make a speech in the address-in-reply. It is a privilege that I never take for granted. I know that every MP will say that. It is a significant privilege to be a member of parliament and represent one's community—in my case, the communities of South Toowoomba, Rangeville, Middle Ridge, Darling Heights, Glenvale and Kearneys Spring. It is a true privilege and something that I never take for granted.

I start by acknowledging the candidates against whom I competed in the election last October. In particular, I want to acknowledge the Greens candidate, young Thomas Coyne, who was tragically killed in a car accident just recently. Thomas was a fine young man who participated in the democratic process with all his heart and with great vigour and respect. I had a great deal of time for Thomas and some lovely discussions with him. I know the member for Maiwar has paid tribute to Thomas as well, but I wanted to publicly acknowledge Thomas for the wonderful young man he was. What a tragic loss he is to the Toowoomba community. I also acknowledge the respect generally shown by political foes in my electorate and the respect with which the campaign was undertaken. I am thankful for all their comradery and healthy competition.

I also want to acknowledge the impregnable member for Toowoomba North. The member for Toowoomba North has taken an extraordinarily challenging seat for us—one which was a strong Labor seat when he started campaigning—and is the epitome of what it takes to win a seat; that is, to embed oneself in the community and represent the interests of the community. The member for Toowoomba North is quite the inspiration for me when I see him out on street corners in the cold every couple of Saturdays. He is the exemplar of campaigning and community heart. I acknowledge Trevor's victory in very difficult circumstances for him again. Congratulations, member for Toowoomba North.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: It would also be remiss of me not to acknowledge the member for Condamine—my other neighbour.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: I am coming to the member for Condamine. I acknowledge the member for Condamine as well. His electorate wraps around mine. Again, he is impregnable. He is a great local MP who is loved by the community.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: And the member for Lockyer, whose electorate is to the east of mine. I reckon there could be a few others too, but I will pull up stumps there.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: No member for Glass House or Burnett. I acknowledge team LNP right across the Darling Downs and the passion and determination we share to continue to represent our electorates to the very best of our ability.

I acknowledge and thank a whole bunch of volunteers on my local campaign. We hear across the board the local people who are willing to give up their time, free of charge—at least on this side of the House—and who are absolutely committed to further the cause. In my case, I want to acknowledge Sam, Steven, Greg and Boyd. I have actually talked about Boyd in both my maiden speech and my last address-in-reply contribution. Boyd is my pre-poll extraordinaire. He is absolutely committed. We all probably have a couple of them. I thank Boyd for his service, commitment and unstinting support right through the election campaign. I wanted to thank Boyd publicly.

I also want to acknowledge my office staff. Last term my shadow responsibilities meant I spent a lot of time away from the office. We all acknowledge our staff. I acknowledge Janice, my office manager—

Mr Weir interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: I will take the interjection from the member for Condamine. She is a constituent of the member for Condamine. I want to give Kevena a shout-out again because Kevena came into the Toowoomba South electorate office in 1991. Kevena is still there today. I am a short-term torchbearer in Toowoomba South—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: Not too short. There have been some extraordinary members for Toowoomba South dating back to Queensland's greatest philanthropist, Clive Berghofer. I follow in the footsteps of Mike Horan and John McVeigh. Kevena has served from Mike Horan onwards and she continues to serve in my office today and somehow tries to keep control of my diary—so thank you, Kevena. Lacey is a wonder support as my media adviser. Julie has come on board with community engagement. I am very thankful to them for all their efforts.

I must acknowledge my family who, like everyone else, bears a heavy load in good health and bad health. I acknowledge my wife, Mel, and our three precious children.

Last year was a difficult year politically speaking. COVID made it very difficult. I want to acknowledge the contribution of our former leader, the member for Nanango. But for COVID I strongly believe that the result in the election last year would have been very different. I want to pay tribute to the member for Nanango and the member for Everton as well, as a leadership team. There was no small target with the opposition last term. We took to the election a bold strategy for victory to grow Queensland. The efforts of the leadership team last term are to be applauded. As I have said, but for circumstances, I believe the campaign and the result would have been very different.

In respect of the last campaign, I want to acknowledge as well the remarkable crop of candidates that we had right around Queensland. The crying shame of the election result is that we did not have another dozen LNP members because there were some extraordinary candidates right across the board—Aspley, Mansfield, Barron River, Springwood, Redlands, Maiwar, Townsville, Mundingburra and Cairns. I think of the candidate in Cairns—Sam Marino. What an effort! I am disappointed for them because they gave it everything, as the leadership team did. They gave it everything in pursuit of an LNP government. I am looking forward to a whole crop of new candidates in the coming years. My hope is that some of those candidates will run again because this House need MPs like that. We need a dozen, 15 or 20 more outstanding LNP candidates.

Mr Dametto interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: We had a great candidate in Hinchinbrook too. We had an amazing candidate in Hinchinbrook who gave it everything. I hope over the next few years we see our wonderful candidates step up and take it to those opposite and to the crossbench and get into this House because we so desperately need it.

I want to address a couple of things in the Toowoomba region. The budget that we saw yesterday falls short in a whole range of different areas. Firstly, I want to mention the Toowoomba Hospital. The government may talk about a day surgery at the Baillie Henderson site, but what we so desperately need is a new Toowoomba Hospital—a place where the people and the communities not just in Toowoomba but to the Territory border and to the New South Wales border can have trust that they will be getting the highest quality health services because we deserve it—communities deserve it.

I think about the centres of excellence that we could have in rural and regional health at the new Toowoomba Hospital. We could have a neuro unit. I think of Braydon Smith and the campaign of the Smith family, who are now starting their own petition to make sure we get a neuro unit at the Toowoomba Hospital. To achieve that we need a new hospital. We are at capacity. We had three code yellows at the Toowoomba Hospital just last week. We need an investment, not just unfunded promises in the never-never which is what we have seen from this government in the budget this week. We need a serious commitment to a new Toowoomba Hospital. I know that my surrounding MPs and I will continue to keep up the fight for that.

We have seen infrastructure cut by \$4 billion over the forwards. What that means is less infrastructure for regional Queensland. In our region from Toowoomba North to Toowoomba South and to Condamine, there is no greater need than a road that connects Highfields to Westbrook. We will see another 30,000 people by 2050 in the western and southern suburbs of Toowoomba. That continuing growth in our region must be supported by physical and social infrastructure. We need a commitment from this government to develop a road from Westbrook to Highfields. We will not be giving up until that is achieved.

With that we need a new high school at Westbrook as well. I have Harristown and Centenary Heights in my electorate. They are at capacity. We desperately need a new high school at Westbrook to meet that capacity. Beyond that, across Glenvale we need amenity. We need paths, greenspaces, real social infrastructure that can make our western and southern suburbs the most livable.

I want to draw attention to an aspect of the budget that I am deeply concerned about, as so many on this side of the House are. It relates to the issue of homelessness and affordable housing. In the budget that was announced yesterday, social housing in Toowoomba is woefully underfunded. We are near the bottom of the table when it comes to investment in social housing in this year's budget. There is a homelessness and housing crisis in Toowoomba, like there is in so many areas around Queensland. I want to acknowledge the efforts of a local group called Protea Place and their CEO, Amanda. I also think of Suzy, who works there, and the women who run Protea Place right across the board—Shirley-Anne, Jacqui, Amanda, Lizzie.

We have an extraordinary community in Toowoomba. The efforts that the not-for-profit and volunteer sectors go to to support our community must never be underestimated. I want to refer to an email from Amanda. She has told me that they have never seen anything like it at Protea Place. She has told me that today they arranged a motel for a young mum and two babies under 2½ who had reached out to her. They had been sleeping in a tent in a creek bed since January.

There is a homelessness and housing crisis in our state. I invite the ministers—the members for Waterford and Algester—to come to Toowoomba to meet with the women who run Protea Place. I want them to meet Amanda and Suzy and their board because places like Protea Place need substantial funding. It is a day refuge that provides women with practical support in the absence of immediate accommodation. They provide meals, short-term hygiene packs, showers, laundry, clothing, domestic violence support, legal support and child safety advice. Every woman who comes to Protea Place seeking support from them will present with five different needs—five different touchpoints—right across the state government sector, whether it be child safety, youth justice or housing. There is a significant need. I call on the Labor government and the two ministers in particular to meet with Protea Place to learn more of their concerns and their funding needs. They are urgent and our community is calling out for it.

I want to acknowledge the service of one legend of the Darling Downs. I want to acknowledge the voice of the show movement, Angus Lane. Angus has officially retired. His last show was the Toowoomba Royal Show in April. I think back on his career. His first show was at Jandowae. He went all the way to announce at the Ekka between 1992 and 2008. He announced at 20 Perth royal shows. He was a fixture at the Toowoomba show. It was pleasing to see him acknowledged last year as a Queensland Great because Angus is one of Queensland's greats. It was pleasing to catch up with him this year at the Queensland Greats Awards. He could not be afforded the wonderful celebration last year because of COVID, but it was good to see Angus there this year. I want to acknowledge the health battles that Vicki faces which have caused Angus to hang up the microphone.

What everyone loved about Angus was that he told the stories. His view of announcing, no matter the show, was to tell the stories of the producers and the animals that were there. With Angus we always got the story. I acknowledge his contribution to the show movement. He will be sorely missed. I do not think we will be able to keep him away from the shows. I look forward to seeing him at shows in the future in a different capacity.

On this note I also want to acknowledge my own father, who this year is stepping down as Darling Downs sub-chamber president. Dad has done a sterling job in his six years as show sub-chamber president, and I reckon that mum nearly has a hat for every show over that time.

Mrs Frecklington: He was at every show in the region.

Mr JANETZKI: I take the interjection from the member for Nanango. Dad does get around to every single show that he possibly can. It will be good to have him a bit more available for baby-sitting on weekends when we need it. The kids love him. I want to acknowledge my father as well.

In the short time I have left I want to make a couple of comments about some commitments in my electorate I want to continue to pursue the government on. Firstly, we still need a community hub at Darling Heights. Darling Heights State School is the most diverse primary school in Queensland. I was

there just recently for the launch of a brand new book by the Zonta club of Garden City, and I acknowledge Emma Mactaggart for all of the work that she has done in getting this book to fruition. At Darling Heights State School half of the kids speak another language at home, and I acknowledge their principal, Mark Creedon, who does an extraordinary job in their school community. Darling Heights is lacking a community hub, a place where the community can come together. There we could have a community garden, a men's shed—places for a diverse community to meet and gather. I am going to continue to pursue the Labor government to fund the community hub at Darling Heights, because we need it and the diversity of our community deserves it.

I also want to talk about community gardens in my electorate. I made a commitment to them during the election. Again, they bring people together. This kind of community infrastructure brings different communities together. It promotes healthy eating, and I want to see it out the back at Glenvale. I think the Toowoomba Community Baptist Church is the perfect location for it. I want to see new community gardens right across the electorate. My hope is that the state government will join with us, and Neil and Annie, as we continue to pursue this interest.

I want to acknowledge the efforts of Ken at the Rangeville-Centenary Heights Neighbourhood Watch. Like everywhere else in Queensland, there is a crime crisis. All too often I hear stories of home invasions, property damage and cars being stolen. It is not good enough. We have been consistent in our calls for breach of bail to be returned as an offence. I know that the Toowoomba community is no different. I am tired of hearing stories of crime in our community, and I will continue to pursue the government on this issue. We also need to invest in our Neighbourhood Watch groups. I am looking to support Ken in his efforts at Rangeville and to get behind community Neighbourhood Watch groups at Kearneys Spring, Harristown and Glenvale.

I want to conclude by again saying what a privilege it has been to be the member for Toowoomba South. As deputy leader I will offer whatever support I can to the leader, the member for Broadwater, in his pursuit of the Labor government over the next 3½ years. I have an important role to play, and I will give it everything in support of the leadership to achieve an LNP government in 2024.

(Time expired)