




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

Record of Proceedings, 25 February 2021

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (12.27 pm): I respectfully acknowledge that we are sitting today on the land of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging. I thank them, as First Australians, for their careful and thoughtful custodianship of the land over countless generations.

I congratulate the Speaker, Hon. Curtis Pitt, on his re-appointment to this high position in our parliament and thank him for his ongoing service to Queensland. I congratulate the Premier on her re-election. The Premier has led our party with dignity. She has guided us with a calm and measured approach. She has listened to the people of Queensland and made our state a better place to live. With the Premier's strong leadership, we will continue to be safe and we will continue to recover. The Premier has stood strong. She has listened to expert advice and acted on expert advice. The Premier has remained strong, even when others would seek to bring her down. Because of the Premier's strength and commitment to Queensland, we are now on a strong path to recovery.

I am deeply honoured to again be given the opportunity to represent the wonderful people of Lytton. I really love the bayside and I look forward to continuing to work hard for my local community. So I thank the people of Lytton for returning me as their local member, and may I say to those in the community who voted for me and for the Australian Labor Party for the very first time: thank you. I appreciate your faith in me and in the Palaszczuk government. I commit to working hard each and every day to earn your vote at the next election.

I also want to thank baysiders. I thank you for your hard work and following the expert advice. I know from firsthand conversations that sometimes this was very hard and sometimes at a great personal cost, but your resilience, thoughtfulness and genuine altruism never ceases to impress me. That is what baysiders do: we always look after each other—always.

I would like to thank the Premier, the leadership team and Dr Young for their commitment to Queenslanders, the job and the sometimes hard decisions they have to make. As a result, they have kept Queenslanders safe and healthy during the global pandemic. I have had so many conversations with locals during the past 12 months or so, and they have all asked me to pass on my thanks to the Premier and Dr Young. I have lost count of the number of times I have had these conversations, so on behalf of my community I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Premier and Dr Young.

Thank you to the many committed and passionate Labor Party members and volunteers on the bayside whose support was integral to the re-election of the Labor government. Your hard work and commitment to the great Labor cause is acknowledged and appreciated. Thanks to Julie-Anne Campbell and Zac Beers for your great work. I would not be standing in this place today without the dedicated commitment and support of many.

To my family I say thank you. Words cannot express my love and gratitude to my husband Peter and my kids, Callum and Audrey; my daughter-in-law Simone; my sisters Catherine and Maureen; my nieces, great-nieces, my in-laws and my great-nephew, who is my next door neighbour. Without you I would not be able to do the job I do. Thanks for being so understanding and accepting of my frequent apologies, late arrivals or no-shows, so thank you and I am sorry. And I am sorry in advance.

Thanks to my campaign director, Delena Amsters, and to the many bayside Labor Party members and supporters who worked tirelessly during the campaign. There are so many of you who helped; however, I particularly want to mention and thank a few: Wendy Marsh and her grandson Isaac—you are both legends—Dianna, Rebecca and of course the amazing Ann Westlake.

To my sister Maureen I would like to say that there are no words that can express my gratitude for everything that you do for me during the campaign and always. Thank you for your kindness, your thoughtfulness and unending support. You give so freely of your time, you offer great advice and you are an exceptional sounding-board.

Wayne Holmes, another long-term campaigner, was sadly unable to participate in the campaign last year due to ill health. Wayne, thank you for your years of dedication. Wayne proudly holds the record for attending every branch meeting. Even during his hospital stay he still dialled in to meetings. Wayne, we really miss your raffles. Joanne Jackson from my electorate office is my dedicated and loyal AEO and I would not have been able to do any of this without her. Her kindness, empathy and thoughtfulness have touched so much in my community.

I come from a union family, and I grew up understanding and valuing the importance of protecting workers and the benefits of standing up collectively. I respect and admire the work of the union movement in Australia, even more so now, to ensure that working people are protected from exploitation and have a safety net of minimum wages and conditions. This important work continues today. I am the proud member of the Transport Workers Union. I would also like to thank the MUA, SDA, Plumbers Union, AWU and TWU for their support during campaign and of course for their continued and ongoing work protecting their members.

I am proud my family's long association to service to this great state of Queensland. My great-grandfather, Percy Pease, was elected to represent the then seat of Herbert in 1920 and he remained in office until his death in 1940. I see his and the Forgan Smith government's legacy each and every day, be it at the Story Bridge or the Wynnum foreshore rock walls, which were built to create jobs using borrowings to create economic growth. Generations of Queenslanders, including myself, have benefitted from this investment by the Smith government and we will continue to do so.

Those infrastructure projects made good economic sense then, just as they do now as we unite and recover in Queensland. The Palaszczuk government is determined to provide an economic environment that gives industries confidence to grow their businesses. This investment has laid the foundations for a sustained recovery so we can seize opportunities to build a strong future. By safeguarding our health, backing small business, growing manufacturing, investing in infrastructure, growing our regions and investing in skills, we will ensure that our vision to protect our health and create jobs whilst working together will be met.

We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity now to work together to position Queensland for the long term. The COVID-19 pandemic has turned our lives upside down but, just as occurred after the global financial crisis, we will come out of this more competitive and positioned for growth. While we have an abundance of natural resources including coal, gas, mineral, solar and wind, our greatest resource of all remains our people—Queenslanders—and our ability to work together. By working together we have the opportunity to build back better and to create a stronger economy than we had before COVID.

Bayside frontline workers, I thank you all. You have stood up to ensure that important services were delivered each and every day. To each of you and to your families I say thank you. When I was first elected in 2015 the people of the bayside wanted to see a government that was prepared to listen to all of the people and work together to build strong communities and a vibrant Queensland, and that is what we have done. I am proud to be part of a government that has listened and delivered important investments which will ensure a bright future for all Queenslanders.

I have spoken many times in this House about the shameful actions of the Newman government that ripped so many services out of the bayside community, including 24-hour primary health care, Child Safety and the department of housing, but probably the cruellest was the closure of our Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit. Our community protested this closure; however, it fell on deaf ears and 85 residents lost their homes and were relocated with no or little regard to their families' needs.

A government member: Shame!

Ms PEASE: It was shameful. I will take that interjection. Since I was elected I have worked and been supported by the Palaszczuk government to rebuild our fabulous community, even more so now during the pandemic. Gundu Pa, which means 'medicines stones place' in Jandi language, delivers outstanding public health services, including a seven-day-a-week, 24-hour-a-day primary care service to the bayside. This health centre continues to grow to meet the growing needs of our community, providing a centralised and modern health precinct that is free, easily accessible and available to all. During COVID it stood up as a fever clinic, and many of the staff were redeployed into contact tracing

and hotel quarantine duties. The Wynnum Community Place, which is another organisation I am incredibly proud of, opened its doors in July last year. I am so very proud of this wonderful place where locals can come together to seek advice and support.

We cleaned up the Wynnum Creek by removing old derelict boats which have been an eyesore for so many years. I will continue to work with the community through the War on Wrecks task force to ensure the health of all local waterways and our environment. In fact, if you are free on Saturday morning, 6 March, at seven o'clock—nice and early—we have a Clean Up Wynnum Creek day. I have gumboots and gloves, so pop on down. There will be a barbecue and Jack's Ice Cream will be there as well.

We are a government that is prepared to invest in small business, in people, in new technologies and new ideas. The bayside is full of innovative women and men who are busily developing new ideas and technologies. From health equipment to drones, from governance to accounting systems, to shared and social enterprise, these all have been supported through our government's support for small business grants and initiatives. I am so very proud of all of our local businesses, and I recognise their contribution to the bayside. We all benefit from supporting our local businesses. Small local businesses are the backbone of our economy and our community, because they are often our first job and they are always ready to make a donation to support a local fete, school or community groups, all while working long hours to provide a service. May I again acknowledge the great work they have done during COVID to step up and follow guidelines as required.

So many people of the Lytton electorate are involved in its communal life. The Palaszczuk government recognises the importance of working in partnership with industry and business to create employment opportunities. It also recognises that a healthy, vibrant state is not created simply through an effective economic formula. My electorate is made up of a diverse range of people from many backgrounds, age groups and skill sets, all of whom have the capacity to contribute to the wellbeing of our great electorate in a multitude of ways.

I am justifiably proud of the mighty Wynnum Manly Seagulls, who had a very quiet 2020 season, but last weekend they stepped up against the Broncos in a trial game. The Wynnum Manly Juniors had an exceptional 2020 season and I congratulate all of the teams: the Bugs, Bayside United Soccer Club, Wynnum Manly Cricket, Wynnum Wolves—who are celebrating their 100th anniversary this year—Wynnum Vikings and the Ladybugs. Of course I am also proud of our hardworking environmental groups and the vast array of activities across the electorate as well as a new and exciting entrant to the field, the Wynnum Fringe Festival.

Tom Oliver came to me during the COVID pandemic pitching an idea regarding a festival. In the words of the famous Paul Kelly, 'from little things, big things grow'. With an \$80,000 grant from the Queensland government and financial support from many local community organisations such as Margaret Vote of Raine & Horne, Quandamooka Festival, Wynnum Seafood Festival, Wynnum Manly Events, Wynnum Up Late, Wynnum Councillor Peter Cumming and of course myself, we were treated to a weekend of performances from artists, many of whom had not worked since March of last year. This all took place in November last year.

Baysiders supported this terrific event and turned out to enjoy the various shows—from the smoking ceremony at Greene Park to Sizzle on Pandanus Beach, and the many shows in the Wynnum Opera House and Winston Churchill Hall. It was great work by Tom and his team of volunteers—and there were many, including my husband, who was there from the opening at Friday lunchtime right through to the end on Sunday. Thanks to the baysiders who supported this event which brought business to Wynnum. At least three businesses have stated openly that their sales over that weekend recouped all of their losses during COVID.

The Wynnum Manly Leagues Club commitment to the bayside continues with a \$13 million refurbishment of the club. That has continued during COVID so many people have been employed during that refurbishment. I was thrilled to help them lay turf on the mighty hallowed Kougari Oval, and may I say that the particular patch that I laid is looking sensational. This investment will see a refreshed club for all the community to enjoy, with improved dining and function facilities and an updated coffee shop. The club employs well over 100 locals and invests millions into our local economy and supports many local schools, clubs and community groups.

To our local groups—such as Mercury Theatre, Savoyards, WROCCS, the Bayside Woodturners and Woodcrafters club, the Wynnum, Manly and Districts Men's Shed, the Wynnum Manly Historical Society, the Eastern District Orchid Society, Moreton Bay Trailer Boat Club, Wynnum Manly Leagues Club and our local sailing clubs, such as Wynnum Manly Yacht Club, Darling Point, Royal Queensland and Sailability—you all serve to connect baysiders by tapping into our creativity, skills and interests to ensure that ours is a healthy, caring and vibrant community and that no-one needs to live in isolation. I say thank you, and even more so during COVID.

As I have said, I am so grateful to baysiders for putting their trust in me as their representative again. I will work hard for you each and every single day. 2020 was a tough year for a lot of baysiders, but I am so proud of the community spirit that always shines through on the bayside. One example was the BMD Group and their donation of laptops for Brisbane Bayside State College and Darling Point Special School and the mighty MUA which, together with their workers, raised over \$5,000 and made donations of stationery, devices and food to local families in need. I was able to distribute that through our local state schools to support vulnerable students and families—because, as I said, that is what baysiders do. We look after each other always.

Queensland's strong health response means we can stay focused on our economic recovery: building infrastructure, creating jobs and investing in the front line. I will be rolling up my sleeves to make sure the bayside gets what it deserves. That means creating jobs for locals by investing in infrastructure and supporting industry, local manufacturers and small businesses as part of our economic recovery plan. I am passionate about making sure every child can learn in the best facilities, so I will continue to deliver upgrades to bayside schools. That includes \$200,000 to upgrade amenities at Manly West State School, upgrades at Wynnum West State School and Wondall Outside School Hours Care, as well as the ongoing air-conditioning upgrades to all state school classrooms, libraries and staffrooms.

We are also expanding Redland Hospital, including a new ICU and 32-bed ward, as well as 713 undercover parking spaces, meaning more baysiders will have access to a world-class hospital closer to home. I am also thrilled to be working with WINNAM, our local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander co-op, to turn the site of the old Wynnum Hospital into an integrated Indigenous, health and aged-care facility. I will continue to support our fabulous Wynnum-Manly Community Health Centre, Gundu Pa.

The Palaszczuk government is delivering \$40 million for an overhaul and accessibility upgrades at Lindum station. It will see lifts installed as well as a new footbridge, a park-and-ride expansion, bike parking and platform raising. I look forward to continuing to work with all levels of government, and I call on the Brisbane City Council to get on with the job of improving the road networks around the station which was outlined in the technical study.

As I have already mentioned, we are incredibly fortunate on the bayside to have so many fantastic clubs and organisations that tie our community together. I will keep working every day to bring them the funding and support they need. I secured \$1 million for the redevelopment at the Moreton Bay Trailer Boat Club and \$300,000 for the Wynnum Manly Juniors, just to name a couple. Manly's Coast Guard—which looks after all of the people who go out on the bay, the QF2 squadron—do an incredible job to keep local boaties safe, but I know how hard fundraising is, particularly during COVID. Therefore, I am delighted that we will provide Queensland's marine rescue services with a \$35 million funding package to replace ageing vessels and better integrate marine rescue services across the state. They are just a few of the things I am working on for locals.

We have achieved so much over the past few years, but there is still much more to do. Our government is ready to do this work and I look forward to working with baysiders. I reaffirm my commitment to the Palaszczuk government and to the people of my electorate. I pledge to my electorate that I will continue to listen to their concerns and work with them to achieve for our local community. I look forward to serving them during this term in government. Like those who have spoken before me, family has played a significant role for me standing in this place, and I reaffirm my thanks and love to them.