




Speech By  
**Nikki Boyd**

**MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS**

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Record of Proceedings, 25 February 2021

**ADDRESS-IN-REPLY**

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (3.07 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker Kelly, may I congratulate you on your appointment, along with Mr Speaker. It is truly an honour to be elected or returned to this place, the people's house, and to work to make our communities even better places—better places for all. I thank the people of my community of Pine Rivers who placed their trust in me.

While political analyst Anthony Green may describe the Pine Rivers electorate as a 'bits and pieces' electorate, to me it has a diversity that reflects Queensland at large. This diversity is a challenge for any MP to represent but presents so much opportunity and strength—for example, mountain living to the west at Mount Nebo, Mount Glorious and Jollys Lookout. In the time that I have been the local member, we have seen large-scale upgrades to the school community here and, in the coming term, I look forward to delivering major safety upgrades to the Samford-Mount Glorious Road. The thriving industrial precinct of Brendale is home to myriad thriving and varied businesses—businesses like Elexon Electronics, a local manufacturing success story now with growing capacity and retained local Aussie manufacturing thanks to our state government.

Aspen Medical, again in Brendale, stepped up making PPE at the height of the global pandemic, providing a local medical supply chain delivered by local jobs. Now we are delivering Downer's Brendale Sustainable Road Resource Centre, which is a business that will actively divert waste from landfill and re-engineer materials for re-use on road construction. My community campaigned to remove the bottleneck from the Linkfield Road overpass. Work is progressing with the duplication as geotech and environmental investigations are occurring right now. This is a project in the member for Aspley's electorate, and he and I have collaborated on it. I cannot wait to see it through to completion to progress this upgrade.

**A government member:** Great project.

**Ms BOYD:** It is a great project. I take that interjection. COVID has been a challenge for Queensland, but local projects delivered through our COVID Unite and Recover economic stimulus package are delivering real outcomes in Pine Rivers. We can see this at the new home of the Pine Rivers BMX club at Nolan Park in what will be a truly world-class facility. In Strathpine the Minister for Transport and I cut the ribbon on the Strathpine station accessibility upgrade, which is something I committed to in my first speech here in this place.

**A government member:** Hear, hear!

**Ms BOYD:** Hear, hear! I delivered on the removal of the Dixon Street roundabout and upgrades to Pine Rivers high, Strathpine West and Strathpine state schools. This time we will deliver a diverging diamond interchange on Strathpine Road, easing congestion on this clogged bottleneck. We will also improve the Strathpine bus interchange at the Strathpine Centre. The outside hours school care at Strathpine West State School will be significantly expanded. At the Pine Rivers Swans a partnership with the Moreton Bay Regional Council is delivering major upgrades to the club with new change rooms and a clubhouse.

Through Lawnton we have more than doubled the car park capacity at the Lawnton park-and-ride train station. I also recently checked out the \$10 million investment we are making in the Pine Rivers Special School with eight new classrooms, two more learning spaces and significant classroom upgrades. In the neighbouring electorate of Kurwongbah is the long anticipated Lawnton State School hall, something I spoke about during my first speech in the House, something that I know the member for Kurwongbah has worked hard to deliver, and something this Labor government is proud to deliver.

I am proud to have advocated for a new Petrie ambulance station to increase capacity for the station. It will be a welcome addition on Gympie Road at Lawnton, which is a more accessible and suitable location. At Bray Park high, following on from the massive school hall upgrade, over \$10 million worth of new buildings, classroom refurbishments and learning spaces are under construction. Bray Park State High School is growing as a result of its reputation and achievements, and the energetic leadership at this school is being supported with a bricks and mortar investment. Bray Park State School has been upgrading its prep spaces, and in this term of government we will see an investment in outdoor learning spaces. That has been a focus for improvement at the school over the years.

The Cashmere and Warner communities now have an increased police presence with the Bray Park and Strathpine police beats going mobile, allowing Pine Rivers police to be more mobile and more visible more often. The long-awaited Eatons Crossing Road safety improvements, particularly the notorious Lilley Road intersection upgrades, will be delivered under this re-elected government. We have already provided a safety solution for Eden Drive. This will continue works along Eatons Crossing Road end-to-end. These works will benefit Draper, Yugar, Closeburn and Cedar Creek as well as Clear Mountain. Only recently the community had a big win at the entry of Clear Mountain: the intersection of Clear Mountain Road and Eatons Crossing Road, which will beautify and improve their community entry. I congratulate the community for their continued and professional campaigning, in conjunction with Keep Queensland Beautiful, to achieve this much awaited outcome.

Through Mount Samson we have improved road safety outside the school with a new school flashing light zone. The school will also see upgrades to accessibility. The communities of Mount Pleasant, Laceys Creek, Armstrong Creek, Rush Creek, Kobble Creek, Sampsonvale and Dayboro will benefit from our election promise of a new police station in Dayboro. During my time as the local member we have upgraded the fire station to a modern, purpose-built facility. Now Sergeant Ken and the team will get the same.

Dayboro State School has been transformed through classroom upgrades. This term will provide the accessibility upgrades that are so imperative for this school, which is located on the side of a hill, along with major playground upgrades. Over the life of the Palaszczuk government we have worked hard to upgrade safety along Main Street, Samford, with pedestrian infrastructure. Thanks to a long partnership with Councillor Grimwade, I will see a pedestrian crossing at the Private Percy Cash Bridge over the South Pine River.

**Mr Stevens:** Darren?

**Ms BOYD:** Yes, the former member for Morayfield. The local school will have classrooms refurbished. Currently, road safety upgrades to Samford Road between Lomandra picnic area and Camp Mountain Road are being proposed. Residents in the suburbs of Camp Mountain, Wights Mountain, Highvale, Sampson Valley and Sampson Village will all benefit from these significant upgrades.

Last week I joined our Attorney-General to cut the ribbon on the Pine Rivers courthouse upgrades, significantly improving the safety and experience of victims of domestic and family violence in our community. Our government has already provided courtroom upgrades with technology to allow for remote conferencing and these upgrades further the capacity of the court, which is something that has been relied on during COVID. In the last term we opened a new university for our community: the University of the Sunshine Coast Petrie campus. While the last 12 months has meant that students and faculty have not been able to enjoy the bricks and mortar of the facility, I know that it is transforming lives—not just of our young people but for mature age students also.

Labor in government is always a government about jobs. We know that good quality jobs—the jobs you can rely on, jobs to build a life around—need qualifications to underpin them. That is why I am so proud to be part of a government that invests in TAFE with free TAFE for school leavers in our community. One of our signature programs, Skilling Queenslanders for Work—a program cut by the LNP and reinstated by Labor—is transforming the lives of vulnerable people in our community. Organisations like Marist180, working with Millen Farm in Samford, and the formidable Youth Development Foundation in Strathpine are at the heart of the delivery of this project in our community. I want to pay tribute to YDF not just for the transformative work they do with young people every day but the way that Gerry and the team stepped up through COVID to provide hot meals and much more to those in need.

I acknowledge the strong and unwavering leadership of our Premier and Deputy Premier. Throughout the pandemic they never stopped in their work to keep Queenslanders safe. I know that through this four-year term there is so much that we can deliver for Queensland, and I am so proud to be part of their team. One of the election commitments I am so proud of in Pine Rivers is the satellite hospital for the Pine Rivers community. We have an amazing hospital at the Prince Charles Hospital and in Strathpine we have a community health clinic, but as our community grows and our health needs become more complex we require more places to service the needs of our community. That is why I am so proud that the Palaszczuk Labor government will provide this resource by way of a satellite hospital, with its preferred location the university campus.

In May 2020, months into the public health emergency, I took on the role of Assistant Minister for Health. While my time in the role lasted mere months, the memories of the people I got to share that time with will last a lifetime. Our Health workforce is nothing short of astounding, and it was an absolute privilege to thank them on behalf of the government and express our pride and gratitude in their work on the front line.

I would also like to thank the ministerial staff, many of whom I continue to work with today in the Deputy Premier's office: Dan, Kat, Amy, Sarah, Riley, Benton, Gen, Pete, Jarran, Maddie, Larin, Kirstin, Bec and, most importantly, the person who organises everything to be entirely efficient, Veronica Tomic. In the early stages of my new role as the Assistant Minister for Local Government I have seen that there are so many opportunities and such optimism throughout Queensland. I look forward to continuing to work with the mayors and councils to capture that, capitalise on that and overcome challenges.

It takes a strong foundation to enable us to do our work day in and day out. I often refer to the work of a parliamentarian as a lifestyle rather than a job, and it is our loved ones who wrap themselves around us and allow us to serve. In the last term my family grew. I had given up hope of having a child by the time I fell pregnant in 2018, but the addition of Evie P has been transformative, enriching and rewarding.

Being an older mum, the road was a little rough so I want to put on record my thanks to my community for their patience and understanding. I recall one group I needed to reschedule three times thanks to illness, and once I got myself in front of them they were nothing but understanding. I thank my colleagues for their support and regular check-ins. By my count, we are up to seven Palaszczuk Labor babies in our caucus.

**Mr Whiting:** It's eight.

**Ms BOYD:** Is it eight? I miscounted. I thank my electoral office staff through that time—Noeline Ferricks and Leigh Holborn—for their support and dedication.

My parents, particularly through the election campaign, were there for us in every way we asked and then some—countless hours on pre poll, even more babysitting, recruiting volunteers, cooking and chauffeuring. Thank you just does not seem sufficient. My husband, Reece Pianta, has developed many campaigning skills over the years. There really is not a day that goes by that he is not doing some manner of work for me and the community, but during election time he does all of the work. He is a great campaign manager—the best thing I ever managed to steal from the member for Capalaba. He has done a stellar job as a stay-at-home dad over the last two years. Together we have created an amazing little human who brings hours of delight. She is independent, creative, active and so loving. She is an absolute enchanting joy.

Thank you to my fantastic family—Matt and Nicole, Tim and Amanda, and Lisa and one of my best booth workers, Steve. More often than not I am absent rather than present, but I know these guys are always in my corner, and I thank them for their gratitude and understanding. My staff are formidable, often studying as well as working and campaigning. Alex Gardiner and Madison Mullins are energetic, creative, hardworking and passionate. I know that both of them will continue to go from strength to strength.

Elections always highlight the wonderful local Labor talent in our community, and I love campaigning with our Pine Rivers branchies. They do not shy away from hard work and they make campaigning fun. The chief of the campaign is always ReecieP, but I want to give a couple of recognitions at the risk of leaving someone out. Thank you to the constant contributions of Darren White, Tim O'Sullivan, Mick and Leonie Calleja, Rae Ellis, Naaz Ali, Ryan Butterworth, Vic Carr, John and Sally Halse, Mick Taylor, Nicole and Jim Molony, Greg Farr, Terry Heinemann, Greg and Pam Hand, Marianne Lucas, Harrison Thompson, Hayley and Alex Nizic, Jo Roberts, Richard Warman, Greg Fewtrell, the entire White family—Ash and James, Caryn and Steve, Callum, Michaela, Brianna and of course Jared—Adam, Shannon and Harvey Lines, Cathy Chapman, Helen Lum, Alex Smock, Yara Jabbour, Alison Price, Yvonne Tregoning, Heather Jackson, Paul McNair, Trevor Warren, the late Andrew Quinn and many more.

What becomes evident through campaigning is the dedication and passion that our Labor team have. Thank you to my in-laws for their continued support. Thank you to all of the local businesses that embraced, encouraged and supported our volunteers throughout the campaign. Thank you to the mighty trade union movement and my union, the United Workers Union. I have had the honour to work campaigning with some of Queensland's lowest paid and most marginalised workers, and it is them I keep front of mind in every decision we make here in this place. I am so pleased to see our UWU team grow again in this term of government. Congratulations to the Labor party—congrats to Julie-Anne Campbell, Jeanette Temperley and all of the team.

Heading into the 2020 election campaign, we anticipated a dirty campaign from the LNP. We had seen the Pine Rivers branch of the LNP found in contempt of this parliament with threats to disendorse MPs for using their conscience vote to support the termination of pregnancy bill. The LNP branch preselected the director of research, policy and advocacy for the abominable Cherish Life, who was previously the LNP's candidate for Bancroft in the 2017 election. The LNP preselected a candidate who was on record saying that women who have been raped or are victims of incest should legally have to carry that pregnancy through to birth. When asked her position on reproductive rights in a question at a candidate's forum she squibbed it and backed off addressing the issue, instead saying that she would talk to people about it separately, off to the side, after the forum.

The LNP preselected a candidate with extremely poor judgement, as exemplified in her campaign petitioning for support to open the borders in the height of COVID. This was a stark contrast to Labor making Care Army calls—if only that were the worst of it. Our community can see through a fake. They saw through the pie-in-the-sky schemes and promises about dams and Bruce highways and \$300 cash-for-votes drives. The people of Pine Rivers voted to stay on the right track and support the government that had taken such strong action on COVID. They supported a government that was focused on protecting them, protecting Queensland jobs and rebuilding Queensland's economy. Our future is bright, it is positive, it is one where we unite and recover Queensland through this COVID pandemic. In our community of Pine Rivers, I will continue to fight for us, to deliver the commitments I made during the 2020 election in a Palaszczuk Labor government that is committed to jobs, infrastructure and building a better future.