




Speech By
Nikki Boyd

MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

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ADJOURNMENT

Pine Rivers Electorate, Investment

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (6.03 pm): It has been the Palaszczuk government's strong health response to COVID-19 that means our economic response can also be strong and effective. Today we announced the lowest unemployment rate in Queensland at 4.9 per cent and the creation of 97,700 new jobs over the past 18 months—more than every other state combined in the Commonwealth.

Our recovery has allowed our communities to rebuild and continue to thrive. Our kids are at school. On the first day of term 4 it was a real thrill to get out to Bray Park State High School, see the construction fences coming down and kids flocking to its new innovation centre. Every child is learning in an air-conditioned classroom in my community, and our refurbishment program means that learning spaces are modernised and contemporary. Solar is rolled out on almost every school rooftop, having huge environmental and economic benefits. Yesterday's announcement of the GP trial in schools means children at Pine Rivers State High School will be able to access medical advice free of charge privately and easily.

Investment is happening right around our community. Only this week we learnt that the Redcliffe Dolphins will be entering the NRL as the 17th team, something I know the Deputy Speaker Kelly is particularly happy about, with superstar coach Wayne Bennett steering them through their first season.

Also in welcome news this week, I was proud to join with our Minister for Main Roads to announce environmental protections for our state roads with a \$4.5 million investment on fauna protections. This investment will be made on treatments like fauna underpasses, fauna rope bridges, animal exclusion fencing, animal refuge poles, nest box habitat, wildlife road stencilling, monitoring equipment and habitat enhancement across the Moreton Bay region.

Our community is such a special place to live, in large part due to the wonderful environment that surrounds us. Our government has a strong record of environmental protection. This literally takes our investment to where the rubber hits the road. On behalf of my community I recognise Minister Bailey and his responsiveness and also Pine Rivers Koala Care and Moreton Bay Koala Rescue, particularly Karin Machell, who have been advocating so strongly for extra wildlife protections across our region.

This funding will make a real difference and will tie into the work for green infrastructure protections that Moreton Bay Regional Council is already making. The future is bright in our region and our strong, effective COVID management is delivering results right across Queensland. This weekend our Brendale Bunnings has provided the opportunity for locals to get a snag and a jab. Our best way out of this pandemic is through vaccination. I implore our community—please, come out and get your vaccination at Bunnings. If you have not yet received your jab, either come to Bunnings, one of our walk-in clinics or seek out your GP or pharmacist.