




Speech By
Shane King

MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH

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ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (12.48 pm): Madam Deputy Speaker, I would like to start by congratulating you and all new and returning members. Hopefully this term will be a very productive one for all of us.

An opposition member: Not based on the current *Notice Paper*.

Mr KING: I will ignore that. It is a great privilege to rise in this address-in-reply debate to deliver my second speech as the state member for Kurwongbah and a proud third term MP in another Palaszczuk government—one that has been returned with an even larger majority. I would like to begin by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which the parliament meets and pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging.

I always seem to refer back to the words I used when I rose in this place in the 55th Parliament as the member for Kallangur and gave my first speech. I said then, 'To say that my life has changed dramatically in recent times would be an understatement.' These words still apply. In my first term I must say I had a very steep learning curve—coming from an electrical project management role on construction sites in high-voltage substations to this place. I have to say though that representing members of the community was somewhat familiar ground, having been a workplace union delegate in my previous employment. I still got to represent people but the change was that there were a lot more of them. My second term as the member for Kurwongbah continued on with this, with a largely new area to represent.

Then the world changed. COVID-19 was thrust upon us. The whole landscape shifted. I am sure everyone in this place felt the enormity of representing their communities in those early days of uncertainty, anger and fear from all angles. Watching my neighbour, the then minister for health and ambulance services and member for Murrumba, Dr Steven Miles, along with Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk and Chief Health Officer Dr Young front up every day to give the latest news, whether good or bad, while undergoing the same turmoil in their private lives, filled me with pride to be part of the response to this shocking virus. What also impressed me was our teachers and our health professionals last year. They put up with a lot every day and they kept going and going. That impressed me.

What did not impress me was the constant undermining and sniping from opposition members and certain parts of the media. On 60 occasions, they asked for the borders to be opened—

A government member interjected.

Mr KING: Over 60 times? It was 64 to be exact. I will take that interjection. Hanson and Palmer took legal action to try to force open the borders. That was reprehensible. If ever there was a time to be pulling at the same end of the rope, 2020 was that time. They just did not get it and the election result showed that. I had little old ladies coming up to me on polling booths asking for a selfie with me—and this is something that does not normally happen—so they could prove to their friends and family they were voting Labor for the first time because we had kept them safe. I think that means we did represent the community well and we did get it right.

Speaking about the election, for the record I have to say that there was shameful gear put out from Cherish Life or whoever it was that both my LNP and One Nation candidates openly displayed and they unashamedly worked together as a team, but it turned off way more voters than they attracted. They had better go back to the drawing board with that. Even some of my well-known political detractors in my area expressed extreme disappointment in that gear; they said that it was not on.

We have been able to achieve a lot first in Kallangur and now in Kurwongbah. I am proud to be able to list some of these achievements. With my neighbour, the Deputy Premier, we will soon be opening the community centre that we received funding for when Kallangur was still an electorate. Dr Miles has built on this and made it into an impressive-looking place that will soon be manned and servicing both of our communities. It is similar with Dakabin station. Before there was Riverway Drive, there was Dakabin station. It does not even resemble the simple rail siding that I inherited from my predecessor, and it will soon be completed with a full upgrade, including more parking with further car parking to come on the Narangba Road side. I thank Gemma Gale and the Dakabin Station Action Group for their advocacy, persistence and patience.

While talking about rail stations, I can say that we have delivered an amazing new park-and-ride at Lawnton station and have in planning more parking at Narangba station as well as an upgrade of Burpengary station for disability access. We have delivered the Boundary Road and highway interchange and work has started on the Deception Bay and New Settlement Road interchange that I have long campaigned for with my friends the member for Bancroft and the member for Morayfield. Ironically, we copped some flak from our LNP federal member for Longman about this project being delayed, and he had to be informed that the delay in this project was because the Newman LNP government removed it from QTRIP and we had to get it back in. That was one of a few own goals from that gentleman. I will just finish the list of road projects underway in Kurwongbah. The Petrie roundabout will not be a roundabout for much longer as work has started to convert this long-term bottleneck into a free-flowing intersection.

We have committed to, have completed or are in the process of delivering a lot of community infrastructure. Due to our partnerships with council, my community will see the following: a brand new tennis centre in Narangba with six courts and a new clubhouse; new change rooms at the mighty Pine Rivers Bears to assist them as they not only take on being Moreton Bay's only BRL club but also field women's open teams, which they are doing quite well with; new change rooms and amenities at Narangba Rangers for the lower fields; and upgrades at the Narangba Crows and Burpengary Brumbies clubhouse. It was exciting to be part of the delivery of a great new soccer facility at the northern end of the Kurwongbah electorate which now houses the Caboolture Sports Football Club. That was a big loss for my northern neighbour, the member for Morayfield, but we have given him permanent visiting rights.

The air-conditioning upgrades to our Kurwongbah schools are underway and we are looking forward to the solar upgrades to accompany this. We have money for Jinibara State School to complete their outdoor learning area as well as their upgrade to the admin block. Petrie State School is currently getting new security fencing and Narangba State School will get disability access to their admin block. Lawnton State School has seen the start of works on its new hall, and I have a great deal of pride in being able to secure this for the school. I thank Minister Grace for her visits to the school and support for this. They are also getting a new admin building to provide disability access and more learning spaces. Lawnton has needed some love for a long time and I am very pleased to be able to deliver that.

I recently visited the new three-storey Phoenix building at Burpengary State Secondary College, and I also opened the new STEM building at Genesis Christian College that we helped to fund. Our high schools have not missed out either. Also on education, our Moreton Bay campus of the University of the Sunshine Coast opened just before COVID hit and promptly had to change its delivery of courses. However, it is still one of the most exciting things to have happened in our community. It is doing well with remote learning, and the community is looking forward to the opportunities it will bring as it grows and thrives as we get on top of this pandemic.

In health, we are delivering a major redevelopment of Caboolture Hospital as well as a few new satellite hospitals in the Moreton Bay area. We have restored the wall at Lake Kurwongbah so skiers, paddlers, rowers and fishers can enjoy the lake as a purely recreational lake. All of these projects are providing jobs for tradies in our Moreton Bay community. That is what we promised and that is what we are delivering.

One more great asset in Kurwongbah is Lakeside raceway, and I make no secret of my passion for this place. In the last parliament our Transport and Public Works Committee undertook an inquiry into motor recreational activities to highlight what MRAs bring to our communities. I encourage all members to read that report because we all have enthusiasts in our areas and their needs are important. I look forward to continuing to help Lakeside to be a place where Queenslanders can experience not

only motor racing but other forms of entertainment as well as driver training and other endeavours to make it a success story. A few detractors should not ruin an amazing, nostalgic place like this for the broader community. We will keep working to get a solution that works for the Kurwongbah and motor racing communities.

As the House would know, it takes a team to campaign for and win an election, and I would like to thank all my team and members of my branches—the Pine Rivers-Kurwongbah branch, the Petrie-Lawnton branch and the Narangba branch. I specifically thank the following people: the Doyles, who are more family than friends; Lyn Waugh; Di and Lance Baker; John Targuse; Mick and Maree Gillam; Janine Aitken; Jason and Vic; Bernie Ring; Rick O’Sullivan; Rhonda, Pattie and Kerry; Scott Reichmann and Kate; Ongy; Andrew Irvine; Kegan Sherf and Taylor Bunnag; Shane Urqhart; Bruce Humphreys; Jim Moloney; Liam Baker; Tom and Steph; Marie; Bob Crombie; Ed Nixon from the Burpengary Community Association—I always appreciate his advice and very few people know the Burpengary community like Ed; Dan Parsell; Kevin Butt; Shelley and Roger; Ronnie Coleman for driving me around in one of his lovely old cars and listening to me rant all election day yet again; the team from Powerlink and the electricity supply industry who never forget a mate; the mighty Electrical Trades Union, which I joined in the early 1990s and I have never regretted that decision for a moment; Shayne Kummerfeld and the RTBU crew of Barry, Tom, Jamie, Anthony, Jim, Luke and Kelvin; the Kurwongbah SEC and, once again, all of our branch members and friends who turned out; the whole Mogridge family for always being there when we need them; Linda Lavarch and her family, and I cannot say how good it is to have the former member for Kurwongbah on your team—her advice is always amazing as is being her friend; young Hamish, who I met on pre-poll who just wanted to come and help—he is a good kid and he has a big future ahead of him; Glen Frew; Eddie and Jeff; Ian and Michelle McJannett; Jeff and Anne, John and Gail, and Nick and Jerry who are always there when I need them; Lloyd; and of course Bonny who never lets me down.

I turn to team Kurwongbah. None of us would be able to do our jobs without a great team. I have heard others in this place say that they have the best team. I dispute that because I have got the best. I thank team Kurwongbah—Leanne, Lorraine and Katie—for keeping everything under control, including me. I also thank their families for putting up with the stress that working in an electorate office can bring.

I thank my family as always for being there. Thanks go to Ben and Ella, who since the election have given us a beautiful little granddaughter, and Natasha and Nicole and their families. My dad went through this for the first time and it was an eye-opener for him. I thank my long-suffering wife, Ang, just for being Ang. We will get that 25-year wedding anniversary holiday in sometime. COVID wrecked it this time but I promise it will be before our 30th anniversary, Ang.