




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (5.44 pm): I am proud to rise in this House today as a member of the Palaszczuk government. I am grateful to the people of Murrumba who re-elected me a year ago. Thank you for once again putting your faith in me. I will continue to work to represent you to the best of my abilities and to work to make our community even better.

The previous term of government was challenging to say the least, with an unprecedented pandemic that our community has worked together to confront. Because of our health response, we have been able to get on with our economic recovery. In fact, we are moving in leaps and bounds, supporting new industries to set up shop and provide jobs for Queenslanders.

Queensland has a long and proud history of converting our natural advantages to economic advantage. That advantage spills into every region and every community every day through jobs. We are resolutely committed to ensuring that our kids inherit a state with even more opportunity than we had, just like my parents and grandparents' generations did for me. Many inputs go into that and over time they change, but one key output remains constant decade after decade—the pursuit of good, well-paying jobs. It is that commitment to well-paying jobs that puts us on the road to net zero.

Three years ago, the Premier met with businesses and academics in Japan to talk about the potential to export Queensland's sunshine as hydrogen. The following year we released our hydrogen strategy. Then we appointed a hydrogen minister—a world first. This year we launched the Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund—a \$2 billion commitment to grabbing the opportunities that are coming from clean energy. Now, because we moved quickly to secure future jobs, because we did not wait for others, because we saw the opportunity and made the partnerships needed to get the most out of it, we are seeing the benefits.

In Gladstone we joined with the Premier and Andrew Forrest to announce the commitment to Fortescue Future Industries' new initial electrolyser manufacturing facility—the largest facility of its kind in the world. When it becomes operational in just over a year's time, we will see highly skilled Queenslanders using Queensland energy to make the machines the world will need to get to net zero.

We have signed a statement of cooperation with Rio Tinto, who will use their experience to help deliver future green industry for Queensland as part of their global business commitment to net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Together with Rio Tinto and with the support of future partners, we will ensure that right here renewable energy is used to power the industries and material that the world will need over the years ahead. That will make it a more valuable product in a world hungry for clean manufacturing and sustainable materials.

In Townsville we are working with the Townsville City Council and Mayor Jenny Hill and Townsville Enterprise Ltd to build the Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct. Each of these partnerships, as they come to life, means more jobs in more industries powered by Queensland clean energy. They

happened because we got on with seizing the opportunity. We took the first-mover advantage. This year, especially after the climate conference in Glasgow, the world is weighing up which jurisdictions are making the most of the renewable energy opportunity. We are not partners to inaction. We will not ignore the calls coming from business and industry to help them create jobs, even when others cannot see the opportunity ahead of us.

We define ourselves by the opportunities we create for Queensland, not by the ones we ignore. Even some of the biggest carbon emitters are crying out for investment certainty. Globally, investors are using events like the COP to assess where the best parts of the world are to invest capital in processes that will both meet our climate obligations and produce clean products. The business world is looking for partners to create jobs, and they found them in Queensland. At the beginning of a golden decade of opportunity for Queensland we have put the foundations in place to leverage our traditional strengths and build a state that will thrive in the global transformations ahead.

Pick a year in the future—any year. Let's say 2032, the year the world will celebrate the climate-positive Brisbane 2032 Olympics. It will be a world that has undertaken a fundamental rethink of how it feeds and cares for its people, ensures security for all and uses energy and fuel to power its work. Hosting the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games will forever change Queensland. Our city will join an exclusive club. The games will go from Tokyo, to Paris, to LA, to Brisbane. Not only will it generate \$8 billion in economic and social benefits in addition to 91,600 jobs but it will also kickstart a pipeline of infrastructure projects with lasting legacies. We want to make sure that every part of the state gets the benefit of these games.

I want to take a moment to speak directly to the people in my community of Murrumba. Across the Murrumba electorate and across the state, since the election we have experienced just a few short, sharp lockdowns but a few more close calls. Locals have answered every call to arms we put out. From going to get tested when they were unwell, to joining Queensland's Care Army when our most vulnerable needed help, to rolling up their sleeves to get vaccinated, Murrumba's incredible resilience has been on show for all to see. While we are not through the pandemic just yet, I am confident we will emerge stronger than ever.

Thank you to the staff in my electorate office who have been on the front line over the last 18 months. Rachel, Peter and Jenny, you have my thanks and appreciation. There is no way I could have focused on Queensland's health response last term as health minister without such an amazing and dedicated electorate staff. You staffed the office, you answered the phones, and you dealt with people at their most vulnerable and scared in the face of an unprecedented pandemic not just from my electorate but often from around the state and the nation. When people looked to contact me as health minister they often ended up talking to my electorate office.

Thank you also to all of the volunteers who helped on the Murrumba election campaign, including: Natasha, Linda, Gary, Bob, Benton, Antonius, Bruce, Tod, Mary, Russell, Ross, Jan, Andrew, Tim, Dani, Phil, Abhi, Matt, Belinda, Elizabeth, Gareth, Andrew, Veronica, Greg, Neroli, Wendy, Sharon, Trevor, Kelly, Glenn, Robbie, Helen, Peter, Mick, Charlie, Sara, Rosemarie, Nick and my parents and in-laws. Ross and Bruce, my father and father-in-law, insist that this is the last of my elections they will be able to commit to. To be fair, they have worked more than a few. My mum and my mother-in-law, Jan, both helped on the campaign trail as well as taking care of the children when we needed that help. With your indulgence, Madam Deputy Speaker, can I mention my grandma. This was the first election she did not make the sandwiches for election day. At 94, we gave her the day off.

A government member: And you still won!

Dr MILES: And I still won even without the sandwiches and lamingtons, but we did miss them. Of course many more people contributed to the Murrumba 2020 campaign. Given how often I was called upon to be in town or elsewhere in the state, I really value their support. Thank you most of all to Kim. I could not do any of this without her support and the work she does to keep our household running. Sam, Aidan and Bridie, I know how much I miss when I am not there. I hope that when you look back it is with pride at what I was able to contribute and not sadness at what I missed.

Queensland is one of only a few places in the world that was able to hold an election in the middle of a global pandemic and not risk a spike in COVID cases, but it was not luck that got us here: it was the hard work of every Queenslanders; it was listening to the health advice; and it was the strong leadership of our Premier and the Chief Health Officer. I want to take a moment to thank now Her Excellency Dr Jeannette Young for her service and the work she put in which saved so many lives. At the very beginning of the pandemic I remember Dr Young stressing to the entire leadership of our health system that we must be relentless in finding cases, isolating them, saving as many lives as possible and never giving up. She never did and we never did. She made so many tough choices and gave our government her advice, knowing that sometimes it would be tough.

At the beginning of 2020 none of us could have predicted how hard the next 18 months would be: the birthdays we would miss, the weddings we could not celebrate, the ways we had to change how we said goodbye to our loved ones. Our strong border measures were tough, but I know they saved the lives of countless Queenslanders. Every Queenslander made huge sacrifices, and on behalf of this government I thank you.

Murrumba is a diverse electorate—diverse in backgrounds, diverse in our culture and diverse in age. That diversity makes our community strong but in a pandemic it also poses challenges, particularly for the elderly. In Murrumba we have many aged-care facilities. I remember the fear and anxiety we felt for our loved ones who we knew were most vulnerable. Since this pandemic began we have lost seven people to COVID-19. While that is an enviable record compared to much of the rest of the world, it is still seven too many. Our community has felt that pain close to home, with Murrumba Downs local Karla Lake being among the few Queenslanders to lose their lives to the virus.

Karla and her husband, Graeme, loved cruises, and for her 75th birthday they chose to celebrate on the *Ruby Princess*. I spent some time with Graeme and their family members in my electorate office. Graeme spent some time in ICU with COVID as well. Their story is heartbreaking. It is one that I kept in mind when I was health minister and one that I will not forget. The actions of health authorities have real consequences, and I committed to ensuring the health of Queenslanders came first every single time.

The next three years will be one of opportunity for Murrumba. One of my proudest moments over the last term was opening the Mango Hill State Secondary College. This is a brand new state high school for the booming suburb of Mango Hill. I proudly joined the Premier and Minister Grace on 23 January 2020 to officially open it. I acknowledge the member for Bancroft, Chris Whiting, who kicked off the effort to get that school before the redistribution when it was part of his electorate. The first students at Mango Hill State Secondary College had a strange year studying in a brand new school in a once-in-a-century pandemic. But the school has served them well, doing its best to support them through this challenging time.

In recent months I have opened fantastic new halls at Mango Hill State School and Kallangur State School. The new university at Petrie is also providing great opportunities for local children. When I started uni, having grown up at Petrie, I would walk to the station—it took me about 10 minutes—to start the 90-minute journey from Petrie station to Toowong station to get on a bus to St Lucia. To think now that someone growing up on Young Street, as I did, can just cross the railway line and go straight to university is pretty incredible. Young people in our community no longer need to choose between our community and getting a university degree.

Our Pine Rivers satellite hospital will ensure that locals will be able to access health care closer to home, reducing the need to travel to Redcliffe or Caboolture hospitals. It will be a game changer for our region. The Premier recently announced that the satellite hospital will be located on land adjacent to the Kallangur train station, making it convenient to public transport, and I think today she announced that Hutchies will be the contractor for building all of the satellite hospitals, including Pine Rivers.

Dakabin station has been long overdue for an upgrade, with Dakabin's growing population putting more demand on the ageing station, but worse were the stories of wheelchair users being carried up the stairs because there were no lifts. Our community deserves better than that. The upgrade, which is almost finished, is making the station more accessible by installing lifts and raising the platform, as well as making it safer by adding more lights and security cameras. I acknowledge the member for Kurwongbah, Shane King, who again kicked off the campaign for the station upgrade. I have been really pleased to work with him on that.

Another project that we worked together on that Shane kicked off the work for and worked very hard to deliver is Kallangur's new community centre, which right now is delivering services for our community, bringing people together at a time when they need it most. I was proud to open it in April this year alongside the minister, the member for Algester, and the member for Kurwongbah.

We are proud to be delivering air conditioning for every learning space in the Murrumba electorate. We did not have a lot of air conditioning. The schools in my electorate tended not to have the kinds of P&Cs that could raise the funds to deliver the air conditioning, so to see those rooms now air-conditioned is fantastic. We are building new classrooms and we have hired many more teachers to teach and inspire children in those classrooms.

We have expanded Redcliffe and Caboolture hospitals, built new car parks, installed CT scanners and MRI machines, and delivered new and expanded health services. All of these projects have delivered jobs for locals and driven our economic recovery. There is more to do with more funding for schools across the electorate, an even bigger expansion planned for Redcliffe and of course finishing the major expansion at Caboolture Hospital.

Queensland's plan for economic recovery is well underway. We are delivering thousands of jobs across Queensland, and in Murrumba we are delivering infrastructure that will fundamentally transform our community. There are not many places in the world where long lockdowns have not caused massive disruption and economic hardship. Thankfully, because of Queensland's strong health response, Murrumba's recovery is well and truly on track. Driving up and down Anzac Avenue, you can see the high-vis and the construction sites. You can see the cafes and shops that are open because our local economy is going from strength to strength. You can sit down—or stand up, for that matter—at any one of our excellent pubs with a drink: from the Murrumba Downs Tavern, to Diamonds, to my local the Mango Hill Tavern, the Kallangur Tavern, as well as our great clubs like the Kallangur bowls club and Norths. We can visit our loved ones in aged care and visit them in hospital without having to risk their lives. Isn't it a relief to be sitting in here without masks on? We have settled into this new normal. While we are scanning our QR codes and soon showing our vaccination records, our daily lives are largely back to normal.

The next three years will be critical for Murrumba and Queensland's continued economic recovery based on a strong health response and driven by the Palaszczuk government's plan for economic recovery. My No. 1 focus is on delivering the jobs our region needs to thrive and to grow. This term my priorities locally are: acquiring the land for our community's new fire station, which was delivered back in July; delivering the Dakabin health hub, a co-located health facility sat between Dakabin State School and Dakabin State High School; and building the Moreton Connector, a subarterial duplication of the Bruce Highway running between Mango Hill and Griffin initially and hopefully, Minister for Transport, eventually a second bridge over the Pine River.

Thank you again to the people of Murrumba for giving me the opportunity to represent them for another four years. It is a great honour to represent them for another four years. Thank you to the people of Queensland for re-electing the Palaszczuk government with an increased majority. We will continue to work for you.