




Speech By
Corrine McMillan

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 1 September 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Mansfield Electorate, Koala Protection; Job Creation

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (6.15 pm): I am passionate about flora and fauna preservation and renewal, and so is the Mansfield electorate community. Last weekend, I rolled up my sleeves to plant new eucalypt trees at our Mount Gravatt TAFE campus. These 500 trees will provide food for our local koalas, deterring them from crossing Cavendish Road in search of food. In addition, the new koala fencing ensures that the koalas cannot climb the fence bordering busy Cavendish Road. I would like to thank Minister Farmer and her Department of Employment, Small Business and Training and the QBuild team for their work on both projects. A special thankyou to the Queensland Koala Society and the Mount Gravatt East Townhouse Action Group for their advocacy in protecting this beautiful native animal which we all love.

While koalas are currently on the move, the demographics of the Mansfield electorate community have also changed over the past decade. The release of the 2021 ABS statistics has shown a considerable shift in my community's demographic profile to a rich and diverse cultural patchwork of individuals and many young families who are predominantly from a Chinese or Indian heritage, complementing our existing diverse, vibrant and talented community. It is wonderful that these families have chosen the Mansfield electorate as their home, which is also recognised as a hub of educational excellence, with 19 exceptional state, private and Catholic schools and an exceptional TAFE campus serving our local families.

Since being elected in November 2017, I have delivered more than \$200 million to our local schools and TAFE. Only a Palaszczuk Labor government cares and invests in education, and I thank the Minister for Education for her great support. Only a Palaszczuk Labor government has a plan to skill more Queenslanders for good, secure jobs after they graduate from our excellent local schools.

In very clear contrast, the LNP has a history of destabilising the lives of Queenslanders. The LNP government slashed \$288 million in employment programs, including Skilling Queenslanders for Work, and tried to decimate our TAFE system, slashing funding by \$170 million, cutting more than 2000 TAFE jobs and attempting to sell off TAFE campuses, including our beautiful Mount Gravatt campus. They sold Old Yarrenlea State School that the Member for Toohey spoke about on Tuesday evening in his adjournment speech.

The LNP cuts resulted in 4,700 local people in my community losing their jobs. Cutting Queensland services and jobs destroys people's lives. Destroying people's lives leads to instability, stress, poverty and homelessness. This Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to delivering world-class education and training programs to ensure Queenslanders are afforded a great lifestyle which job security brings.