




Speech By
Shane King

MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH

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ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (4.02 pm): I am proud to be here today representing the Kurwongbah electorate for a third term in the Queensland parliament. Many of my constituents have known me for even longer as I originally represented residents in Petrie, Kurwongbah, Whiteside and parts of Lawnton and Narangba as the member for Kallangur from 2015 until the redistribution and re-creation of the Kurwongbah electorate in 2017. Before I go any further, I want to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which the parliament meets and pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging.

I thank my electorate for putting their trust in me again at the 2024 state election. I will recap some of the achievements that have brought us here and outline my hopes and plans for our community's future later in this speech. I want to thank my family and friends—especially my wife, Angie, and my son, Ben, and his family—my campaign volunteers and my electorate office team. My team not only kept the office going through what is an exceptionally busy time but also used their own time to knock on doors and work on pre-poll and election day booths. Everyone went above and beyond and I am grateful to have had, and continue to have, such an awesome team around me. Thanks to Katie, Leanne, Cody, Bobbi-Jo, Lorraine, Kerri and Rosemary Hume as well as your families for particularly being so understanding of the extraordinary time taken from family life during an election campaign. I could not have done it without the support of Angie at home.

To the mighty team of volunteers in Kurwongbah: my sincerest appreciation and thanks. Special shout-outs go to Ronnie Coleman, Lyn Waugh, Pam Fielding, Ray Mogridge, Bonny Barry and her team and, once again, my wife, Angie, who worked on pre-poll every other day or pretty close to it. Thanks to the other key members of Team Kurwongbah: Shayne Kummerfeld and the RTBU crew, Mick and Maree Gillam and Linda Lavarch. Handing out how-to-vote cards every time with Linda—an esteemed former Queensland attorney-general and previous member for Kurwongbah—is always a standout moment.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr KING: Yes, she is a legend. I take that interjection. I am proud to call Linda my friend. I thank my election day team leaders Lee Porter, Kev, Dave, Louise Watts and Stuart. A special shout-out to Lee for his market stalls. They always attract a huge crowd and it is much appreciated.

Thanks to my ETU union comrades who are fighting to save our Energy and Jobs Plan—another revolutionary vision lost to the LNP. Thanks to Alex Scott and the Together union, the AMWU and the plumbers union for their support this year. Thanks to Kate Flanders in party office for her support and friendship. Thanks also to Rhiannyn Douglas, doorknocking extraordinaire, for her help, friendship and hard work. I know that constituents in the federal seat of Longman can expect to see a lot more of Rhiannyn in the lead-up to next year's election. A shout-out goes to Finn, who joined the campaign at its height and was a remarkable support to us in the final days.

Election campaigns are tough. It was disappointing to see the LNP get personal during this one, attacking me—I have feelings—rather than debating policies. We also saw a new and disturbing tactic.

Government members interjected.

Mr KING: As I said, I have feelings. We also saw a new and disturbing tactic in Kurwongbah this time around: the LNP candidate's announcement of funding for parking at the Narangba train station—the same \$6 million in funding that I had secured in a previous state budget. Considering the LNP's keen interest and the fact the money is already there—the very same taxpayers' money the LNP has promised to respect—I look forward to seeing some concrete poured for this project in the very near future. I take this opportunity to let the new Minister for Transport know that I will be seeking regular updates on this project. There are other local projects that I want to talk about, but I will come back to those.

It is an absolute honour to be back in this place. I want to briefly commiserate with our colleagues who, sadly, will not be coming back, at least not in this term. I will miss catching up with the former members for Redlands, Caloundra, Redcliffe, Thuringowa and many others who were our friends as well as workmates.

I want to congratulate my neighbours across the city of Moreton Bay: opposition leader and member for Murrumba, Steven Miles; the member for Morayfield, Mark Ryan; the member for Bancroft, Chris Whiting; and the member for Pine Rivers, Nikki Boyd. I believe these results reflect our team spirit and our ability to put politics aside to work with all levels of government to get the outcomes our constituents need and deserve. These are outcomes like: the new ambulance stations in Morayfield and Lawnton; satellite hospitals in Kallangur and Caboolture; billions of dollars for improvements to our local hospitals; better disability access, solar panels, air conditioning and better NBN bandwidth in all our state schools; upgraded train stations; and improvements to local roads and upgraded Bruce Highway interchanges. I pause to remark on the new Premier's determination to enforce the traditional 80-20 federal-state cost-sharing arrangements for highways under the new government. It is funny: I do not recall the state LNP lobbying Scott Morrison for that when he was in power federally. I do not remember that.

In addition to our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, which is investing billions in renewable energy and retraining workers for the jobs of the future, the state Labor government delivered a number of rebate programs for households installing energy-efficient appliances, batteries for solar power, environmentally friendly e-car purchases, as well as energy rebates for both homes and businesses. It is with sadness that I acknowledge that I am not standing here as part of a Miles Labor government. Despite delivering landmark 50-cent fares, free kindy, free TAFE, 20 per cent off car registration, tool rebates for tradies, record cost-of-living relief and \$200 FairPlay sport vouchers, which many families still have the benefit of using until June next year, a Labor government was not returned. In the labour movement we believe in compassion and lending a helping hand, especially to households doing it tough. That will continue.

I want to put on the record my disappointment in the LNP's disingenuousness through their Adult Crime, Adult Time campaign. The new Premier was happy to refer to rising crime figures in complete isolation of population growth, until it was his job on the line. While a four-word slogan might play well in the media, the complexities that underlie youth offending remain regardless of who is in power. It is great that the LNP want to recruit more police, child safety officers and foster carers to tackle some of those complexities, but I wonder where those workers will come from, particularly if they cut workers' wages and conditions like they are doing with construction workers.

It is great to hear that the LNP wants to build a million new homes, but I wonder how they will get the materials and tradies more quickly and cheaper than we could. How will they help the City of Moreton Bay, for example, increase development approvals so dramatically without taking on the duties and expenses traditionally borne at the local government level? Furthermore, in housing we have not heard a commitment that the LNP will keep the assistance products we introduced, including the rental security subsidy, expanded bond loan options and rental grants. Nor have we heard whether they will follow through on our legislated reforms to protect renters with, for example, rental codes for real estate agents, a portable bond scheme and more options for the payment of rent. Hopefully the new Minister for Housing can provide with us some assurance on these matters and the future of our trial that provides up to \$10,000 in funding for seniors to install security measures in their homes.

Speaking of assurances, I would like to hear whether the new Premier will follow through on his election commitment to build a wildlife hospital in Dakabin. This morning I was pleased to hear about the new manufacturing TAFE campus in Petrie. I was questioning whether that would go ahead. I am supportive of both of those projects because, as a tradie myself, I respect the value of TAFE immensely. That is why I was so proud to be part of a government offering free TAFE places for Queenslanders.

Locating a TAFE next door to the Sunshine Coast university campus is a positive development. It underlines the importance of the opportunities brought by both forms of tertiary education in terms of skilling our future generations and opening up access to TAFE education for locals, who currently must travel to Caboolture or Bracken Ridge for their classes. I know there will be many disappointed parties if these commitments are not upheld. I think we all have a right to know what is on the chopping block.

In the Kurwongbah electorate the LNP also promised money for upgrades at the Burpengary Jets Junior Rugby League Club and Meals on Wheels, and I wonder whether those commitments still stand. My own election commitments include \$3 million for upgrades at the Harris Avenue sports precinct in Narangba. The new Premier knows this precinct because it was the location of his announcement on the crackdown of metal theft in Queensland. He promised to implement most of the recommendations of the committee proceedings, which I chaired. We were already doing it, but I am glad to hear he is continuing with that because it is a scourge in our neighbourhoods. I promised \$1 million for upgrades at the Narangba Bowls Club for shade to help our elderly bowlers avoid skin cancer and heat issues—and they really need it—as well as \$500,000 for upgrades at the home of the Narangba Crows. These commitments were all to be delivered in partnership with council and would benefit so many locals. I implore the new sports minister to pay a visit to the sporting clubs in question to hear firsthand why these projects are a good investment for the state regardless of who is in power. I also encourage the LNP federal member for Longman, who so readily lent his staff to the state campaign against me, to take an interest here and consider committing some federal funds to these worthwhile community sports projects.

A re-elected state Labor government would have also helped deliver a million dollars to finish the security fencing we started at Narangba State School. In line with the LNP's promise for safer schools, I hope the new education minister will consider this project a priority. I will be writing to him formally about this. Fencing at Narangba State School would serve two security purposes: protecting the school from theft and vandalism; and ensuring the safety of students who are inclined to run out onto busy surrounding roads. It has happened before. It would mean the world to the school community to have this project delivered.

I will return to the issue of parking at Narangba train station. If the LNP would like to commit an extra \$6 million on top of what I already secured, I am happy to work with them. We could talk about a multilevel solution or something else. Just down the line, our newly upgraded Burpengary station will need more parking to accommodate commuters moving into new developments at Kinma Valley, Affinity Estate Morayfield and Sage Estate Burpengary. I know that the member for Glass House and his family will back me up on that. We have discussed it often. They let me know they love upgrades at Burpengary station. As the population of Petrie grows, hopefully Petrie Mill is on the list for state-funded infrastructure to unlock significant development potential. The need for more parking at Petrie station will also increase. This station is a major interchange since we delivered the Moreton Bay Rail Link. We also recently announced that a jointly funded indoor sports centre—a federal, state and council partnership—would be built at Petrie Mill. The sports centre will host boxing events for the 2032 Olympics, and it would be wonderful to see a refresh of Petrie station ahead of that milestone.

There is one more issue I will raise in the transport and main roads portfolio today, and that is the Bruce Highway Western Alternative, also known as the Moreton Motorway. The former Labor ministers for transport and main roads know that I have been dissatisfied with the options put forward by departmental staff for stages 2 and 3 of this project. I have put forward my views numerous times; that is, if the road proceeds it should utilise powerline corridors further west than the routes favoured by the department to date. It is my opinion, shared by many locals, that building over the considered scorched earth that is a powerline corridor would minimise impacts on wildlife and the ability of impacted property owners to continue to use the majority of their land and remain in their homes should they wish to. I would be happy to meet with the minister and take him for a tour around the area to see my proposal. It is not a new one.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr KING: Much appreciated. Working with my community under successive Labor governments, I am exceptionally proud of the projects and initiatives we have delivered. I hope we will not see our progress slowed down under the new LNP government. I have said many times before that it is important to put politics aside to achieve outcomes for locals, and I am willing to do that in this 58th Parliament. I look forward to keeping my electorate updated on the priorities we have put forward and I hope the news will be positive.

I would like to conclude by extending my congratulations to the new Speaker, whom I have known for a long time—I think he is a great man for the job—as well as everyone stepping up into deputy roles. I would also like to welcome new members. I think I have made it clear that we probably will not agree

on everything, but I acknowledge that most people who put their hands up to be here today genuinely want the best for our state. I am also proud to be back in this place representing residents of the Kurwongbah electorate. Among the many places and things we have in the Kurwongbah electorate my favourite places include: Lakeside Raceway, the Mill, the university precinct and Old Petrie Town as well as some great community sporting clubs. We are all very proud of it. It is great to be back here, albeit this time in opposition, but it is an honour and privilege to do this job—I think we should all agree on that—the responsibilities and rewards of which I will never take for granted. I hope those opposite will not either.