




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

Record of Proceedings, 22 May 2025

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (4.58 pm): I begin by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land where we meet today and pay my respect and thank them for their gentle custodianship and care of the lands, winds and waters that we all enjoy, particularly in my home area of Lytton which is on Quandamooka country. I am really proud to sit with the member for Algester and the member for Bundamba, both proud First Nations people. I am extremely fortunate and proud to have very strong relationships with our First Nations people in Lytton, that being the Quandamooka, Turrbal and Yagara people. I am so fortunate for your friendship and wisdom, and I thank you for your kindness, care and guidance. I am so looking forward to a tour of the new residential aged-care facility that you are building down there called Winnam Yagabu Jagu, which means 'place to heal altogether completely'.

It is with great pride today that I rise to speak here as the elected representative for Lytton. This is my fourth consecutive term, and I give my heartfelt thanks to the voters of Lytton for entrusting me for another four years. It is, indeed, a high honour and one that I accept with a huge sense of responsibility, just as I did when I was first elected in 2015. I am so fortunate to represent one of the best electorates in Queensland. I know that we all say that, but I truly do believe, as does everyone that lives in Lytton, that it is the best electorate in the state. It is also full of the best people in the state.

On that note, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to one such very special member of my community and one such wonderful family. The Smith family have been doctors in our local area, starting up Manly Clinic many years ago, and have been the family doctors for many baysiders for a number of years. My father-in-law, Dr Paul Smith, and his twin brother, along with Dr Jack Hansen and Dr Frank Fry, started Manly Clinic a number of years ago.

Who I wanted to talk about today is Dr Tim. Dr Tim is my brother-in-law, my husband's brother. He is a wonderful father of three beautiful children and husband to my sister-in-law, Monica. Monica is the daughter of Neil Turner, former Speaker of this House. Dr Tim, sadly, is battling incurable cancer. He is now at home with his family, surrounded by his loved ones. This is a doctor who has provided genuine loving health care to the people of the bayside for over 40 years. Dr Tim was the last doctor, up until the beginning of this year, even when he was battling his disease, who was still attending and visiting residents in residential aged-care facilities. He was also one of the last doctors in our area to do house calls—very much an old-school doctor and one that I am very proud to call my brother-in-law. Thank you for your service to our beautiful bayside community, Dr Tim. You are loved, Tim, and we all appreciate everything that you have done.

The bayside of Brisbane is its own unique community. It is a community nestled away on Brisbane's south side and we are not a thoroughfare. We are out of the way for most. People often say that Queenslanders are parochial. Wait until you come to my electorate. Sometimes I feel like I am representing almost the 'People's Republic of Wynnum'.

Most baysiders prefer not to venture out of the bayside. If we do, it is often through need, not want, because we have everything we need in the bayside. We have an incredible sense of community spirit and we really care about each other. I have often said that Labor values are Australian values,

and the bayside community spirit is the epitome, indeed, of these very values. We do not just help our most vulnerable, we go out of our way to do so. The old adage that a society's strength is measured by how it treats its weakest is so true, and that is what makes the bayside so strong and so special as we have that quality in spades.

We are an economically diverse community. We have working-class families doing their best to keep their heads above water. We have vulnerable families relying on the goodwill of support services, faith groups and neighbourhood centres, groups like Rosie's, St Pete's Pantry, the Y Community Hub, the Wynnum Baptist Church, the Waterloo Bay Leisure Centre and the Wynnum Community Place which has just advised me that they will be receiving funding from the LNP after much kicking and screaming from me—all of which do so much to help those in need. Of course, we have industry icons like the Power family from the BMD Group, as well as industry giants.

Our community is inclusive. We baysiders, rich and poor, educated and uneducated, employed and unemployed, look out for each other. We get involved in our community. Everybody knows everybody, often with only one or two degrees of separation. That is why I am so lucky to represent my Lytton electorate.

My electorate, of course, is changing. It was an old-school Labor electorate that gave rise to two former deputy premiers. The backbone of my electorate was fishing, the wharves and the meatworks. Their workers lived in humble weatherboard homes scattered across the bayside, and I remember not that long ago where you could buy a block of land overlooking the magnificent Moreton Bay on Tingal Hill for around \$10,000. Admittedly, you would be looking over a municipal tip. Now the median house price is well above the Brisbane average. A house on that very same hill recently sold for over \$4 million.

People are attracted to the stunning landscape, the morning walks along the bay and the friendly relaxed chatter of baysiders. It is not uncommon nowadays to see Victoria and New South Wales numberplates fill the Woolies car park. Locals are still educating our newcomers to our morning salute. It is actually a bit of fun we are all having with our newest residents. They are at first startled by our genuine, friendly good mornings and by the next week they have embraced our morning salutes.

I have worked extremely hard over the last decade to improve the bayside for baysiders, to make it an even better place to live, work and raise a family. I have worked hard to ensure that baysiders get their fair share of projects and investment funding. Since 2015, I have secured over \$45 million in direct community businesses, education, sporting grants and so on. I have worked hard to build an incredibly engaged and supportive bayside community by liaising with hundreds of local groups and leaders, voicing their needs within the former Labor government to ensure they got the funding and support they needed, such as the YMCA, the Y Community Hub, 60 & Better, PCYC, Brain Injury Community, Hands and Feet, Men's Shed, Career Employment Australia, Branches Lifestyle Support, BABI—our youth and family support service—and countless others. My work and engagement with hundreds of local bayside communities is why I am still standing here today.

In education, I could not be prouder. We not only have brilliant schools but also brilliant teachers and brilliant support staff at the schools. We have secured millions of dollars for our schools with significant investments in Manly State School and Darling Point Special School through Queensland's Big Build. We have also had major upgrades to Wynnum State High School, Wondall Heights State School, Tingalpa State School and Wynnum State School, just to name a few. Every state school classroom and library is now fully air-conditioned and solar panels are installed to reduce electricity costs.

The major Lindum station accessibility upgrade is nearly complete, including a footbridge with lift access, improved accessible parking and a new station office and facilities. I know how dangerous this intersection is at Lindum, and I have been working really hard to fix this. The station upgrades, in conjunction with the Brisbane City Council reconfiguration of the intersection and the installation of traffic lights, will ensure a safe and accessible trip for all consumers. I call on the Brisbane City Council to start the work with the money that the federal government has funded—actually start this work. The station has been done. Now it is up to the BCC to get on with those roadworks.

IOR have just built their new transport facilities and fuel terminal, and Ampol are well on track with the upgrades to one of the last remaining refineries in Australia.

The Port of Brisbane continues to be a huge economic enabler. It is worthwhile having a tour out there. You can drive down and have a look at all the huge growth in the port services. It is continuing to grow. We have seen many investments from many operators in cleaner and greener operations, including ResourceCo and Visy which are now employing what I like to call the green-collar workers. They continue to be a fantastic corporate citizen, supporting our wonderful bayside community. This is

all in addition to the new Wynnum Ambulance Station at Wynnum West and, of course, something I have been particularly proud of, the Wynnum-Manly Community Health Centre, Gundu Pa, which I secured for my community.

I want to remind people—and I know I talk about this often in this place—local health services in the bayside are really important to me. I want to take this opportunity to say that we do not have a hospital in our electorate. We used to. Those opposite, when they were in government in 2012, closed that hospital. They not only closed the hospital but also closed Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit and 85 people who resided in that nursing home all lost their homes. Baysiders have not forgotten. I still have people talking to me about that today. There are family members of those residents who have still not forgiven the LNP for what they did during that time. It was a cruel and thoughtless act, and it has not been forgotten.

My community is keeping a very close eye on this LNP government because they want to make sure that we do not get punished again, as we were under the previous LNP government. We were terribly punished. There is an opportunity for the Crisafulli government to right the wrongs of the past. This is an opportunity for the Premier to forge a new identity—one that proves that he cares about vital human services. The LNP candidate did not make any commitments to health services in my area. I did, because I felt that there was an opportunity for our local Gundu Pa to have an uplift of services. I call on the LNP government to undertake that business case and to uplift our services at Gundu Pa.

I am incredibly proud to have been a member of the Miles government and of the previous Palaszczuk government and of our record. We demonstrated a strong commitment to improving the lives of Queenslanders through comprehensive programs and policies that spanned various domains including cost-of-living, health care, community safety, housing, education and environmental sustainability. We delivered outstanding cost-of-living relief: \$1,000 electricity rebates to all Queensland homes; extending FairPlay vouchers—I call on the LNP government to continue those; free kindy; free flu vaccination; and, of course, the wonderful 50-cent fares on public transport. We created over 650,000 jobs. We reduced unemployment from 6.6 per cent to four per cent and we introduced the \$107 billion Big Build infrastructure program, supporting 72,000 jobs annually. We launched the Energy and Jobs Plan fostering economic growth through investing in renewable and clean energy. We offered free TAFE, benefiting 91,000 Queenslanders in 2024 alone, and we have supported 82,000 apprentices and trainees since 2018.

I will work constructively with all members of this House, including those opposite, because I recognise that Queenslanders have spoken. The new government has been elected and this opposition respects the voice of the people. After a decade in power, it is inevitable that levers of power change. The opposition, however, is listening to the message given by Queenslanders. We will continue to call on this government to make sure that they deliver what they promised and to date, it has been very sad. So far we have seen a reduction in so many services and the introduction of behaviour that I have never witnessed before in this chamber, and I have been around parliament for over 20 years.

Government members interjected.

Ms PEASE: It begins again, even as I say that. You should hang your heads in shame. I have never been so appalled. I had one of my schools here the other day and they said to me, 'Why are these people yelling out and behaving like that?' I said, 'I know, you would not be allowed to carry on like that at school, would you?' You can talk, you can call out; and I can call you out.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Members to my right, those interjections will cease.

Ms PEASE: I could go on and on but I will not waste time because I know how appalling you are, as everyone can see. I am humbled to have been selected to serve on the Leader of the Opposition Steven Miles's front bench as the shadow minister for small business shadow minister for customer service and open data.

Government members interjected.

Ms PEASE: Bring it on, you are just proving me right!

Ms Bates interjected.

Ms PEASE: I beg your pardon.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Lytton, you are aware of the requirement to put your comments through the chair and, when you do not, I am not inclined to give you protection.

Ms PEASE: Can I take a point of order, please?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order, member for Lytton?

Ms PEASE: I take offence at the words from the member for Mudgeeraba. She told me to sit down.

Ms BATES: I did not.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Lytton, I have taken advice on this and I, too, do not recall hearing the member for Mudgeeraba saying to sit down. I did hear her say 'through the chair' which was an interjection that I think was provoked by you. I ask you to continue with your contribution please.

Ms PEASE: Thank you. There are nearly 500,000 small businesses registered in Queensland. The latest employment data of the labour workforce in this state says approximately 2.5 million people are employed in small businesses so it does not take a mathematician to understand the importance of small business in our state. They contribute more than \$117 billion to our economy each and every year and without them, our economy would wither on the vine.

Of course, I would not be standing in this place without the support of many. I thank the locals who voted for me for your faith in me. My mum and dad, Jack and Agnes—sadly they are no longer with us; however, they instilled in me and my sisters our strong sense of social justice, equality, the importance of protecting workers and the benefit of standing up collectively. Both were true believers, activists and community champions.

To my husband, Peter: what a bloke! He was our sign man, our go-to guy with a van—'can you do this darl?'—the fella who made sure there was dinner on the table, washed clothes and the cat was fed. He kept the home fires burning and stayed in touch with all of the people who I do not. Thank you, I love you, and could not do it without you.

To my kids Callum and Audrey and their partners Allison and Simone and my beautiful grandkids, Fin and Agnes: thank you for your support. I am so proud of you for your wonderful achievements and successes and I love you. You bring such joy to me and I wish that I could see more of you.

To Catherine and Maureen, my darling sisters: what didn't you do and what don't you do! I do not have words that can truly express my immense love for you both. Thank you, thank you! I love being one of the 'Pease girls'. I know that I am often berated for calling myself 'one of the Pease girls' but it is not a slight.

Mr Smith: Three peas in a pod.

Ms PEASE: Yes, that is right, thank you. To my staff: Joanne, Hugh, George, Casey and Ben: you love the community as much as I do and I know that you work so hard to support our wonderful locals, thank you. Thank you for your support, and I also thank your families because they are also along for the ride, like it or not.

There are too many volunteers to name. You contribute so much to the community volunteering across so many areas. I cannot express how grateful I am for your support and friendship. Firstly, I would like to acknowledge Wendy. Thank you for putting in so many hours of volunteering time, often at a detriment to your health. I am so thankful that you are my friend and for your support. To the many branch members and volunteers from across the community: I stand on your shoulders to represent you in this place.

I acknowledge Kate Flanders at the party office and I thank the party and all their workers for their great support. I would like to call out Meredith who has been a long-term worker for the party. I respect and admire the work of the union movement in Australia that ensures working people are protected from exploitation and have a safety net of minimum wages and conditions. This important work continues today and I am a proud member of the Transport Workers' Union.

I wish our small business community and the bayside community every success, and I will work tirelessly for their success. I will work tirelessly for the electorate I love and I will work tirelessly for the party I love—I loved it even more on 3 May. It was an absolutely outstanding result! I would like to acknowledge Kara Cook, our member for Bonner. What a champion and what a lovely breath of fresh air. I also acknowledge Ross Vasta, who was the member for Bonner for nearly 20 years, and wish his staff all the best in their new life. Having been in that position, I know that it is a hard journey and a hard transition.

I would like to acknowledge all the small businesses in the area and across the state. I look forward to working with small businesses across the state because I was a small business owner myself. I grew up in a family with a small business so I know that there are highs and lows across the sector. I would love to hear from many small businesses and their peak bodies to make sure that we get to hear what services would help you. I want to make sure that into the future your payments are

on time, instead of getting further and further behind, as I referred to in question time in parliament today. Hopefully they will get paid on time every time—unlike what is happening at the moment. I look forward to working with all businesses to make sure they have a successful and vibrant future and employ lots of people across the state.

I am really proud, as I said, to be a member. I take it very seriously. I will continue to call out the misdoings of those opposite. I look forward to running for my electorate in the coming years. Thank you.