




Speech By
Nikki Boyd

MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

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ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (12.25 pm): Representing the people of Pine Rivers is a privilege that I have had for going on 10 years now, a privilege weighted with responsibility and gratitude. While casting a vote at the ballot box for many is but a moment of their time, the significance of that act should not be understated. The consequence is enduring. Decisions made in this place by governments can help or hurt for years to come.

I put my hand up to run for my community when I saw firsthand how much the LNP policies had hurt our community. I saw firsthand as a representative of health workers when my community had the deepest health cuts from the former LNP government. I saw it firsthand when I knocked on the doors of my community who had multiple family members who had lost their jobs or were in deep states of despair. I felt it firsthand as ideologues from the LNP made changes in this place that resulted in members of my community being made to feel less worthy or inferior.

Creating local jobs, strengthening service delivery, legislating progressive reforms, advancing equality to make lives better and building the infrastructure our community needs has remained my priority since my election in January 2015. Being re-elected into this place now makes me the longest serving member for Pine Rivers.

Seeing the tangible benefits of a Labor government in my community has been so rewarding. Seeing our Pine Rivers special schools receive learning spaces that are fit for purpose is one stark example. The first time I walked through that school, I left with feelings of turmoil at the indignity our kids had been provided with. Under the former Labor government we built three huge, multipurpose buildings that have modern facilities. We have created an environment that our community can be proud of.

Pine Rivers Special School is one example of the transformation that has taken place in our schools and learning spaces in our community, and it is something that I am so proud of. Fit-for-purpose learning spaces; high schools with STEM and robotic spaces; improved trade training spaces; enhanced creative spaces; schools with GPs, social workers and psychologists; schools with period products; and schools with breakfast programs for those who go to school hungry—that is what Labor delivers in education.

In spite of intense demand, our health and hospital systems are more dynamic and stronger than ever. I have championed and delivered a dedicated satellite hospital, one with more renal dialysis capacity than the PA Hospital for our community. It is delivering more health care closer to home, taking thousands of presentations of minor injury and illness out of our busy emergency rooms and freeing them up to work on more serious matters.

The last time I was elected to this place we were in the grips of a global pandemic. Our health system had been under immense pressure. As our population ages and our general rates of health decline, our health system will continue to be placed under strain and our healthcare workforce will be more valuable than ever. Expanding and investing in our health system has been a priority of mine. The

Prince Charles Hospital, our community health centre in Pine Rivers, our new Lawnton Ambulance Station and our satellite hospital are all examples of that. For workers in secure jobs to be able to access health care closer to home, in Queensland-run facilities that are free to the sick, is something I will continue to fight for. Labor's 50-cent fares, upgrades to our Strathpine bus station, the Strathpine train station accessibility project and congestion-busting intersection projects, as well as major safety improvements to Gympie Road, Samford Road, Mount Glorious Road, South Pine Road, Strathpine Road, Eatons Crossing Road, the Linkfield Road overpass duplication and the Gympie Road bypass tunnel—whose future we are yet to hear about from those opposite—are just a few things I have done in our community to make it safer to get around.

As our community continues to grow, it is clear that more needs to be done, particularly in light of the recent reduction in scope mid-project—under the watch of the LNP—at the Eatons Crossing Road and Mount Sampson Road intersection. This intersection has now been made less safe through a safety upgrade. My community is banding together against the LNP government's decision and petitioning in their thousands to see dual turning lanes reinstated.

This election I campaigned for a study into the dangerous level crossing on South Pine Road at Strathpine, which had enormous community support. The boom gate downtime there causes serious delays which we know are set to get longer when Cross River Rail comes online. Congestion is spilling out onto Gympie Road in Strathpine and impacting economic productivity through Strathpine and our busy industrial hub of Brendale. This, of course, is making pedestrian safety an issue. These are all things that I want to see solved so it is something that I took to the last election. I will continue to fight for safety improvements and alternatives to the dangerous level crossing that we have at Strathpine. It was a matter that I spoke about in my first speech to this House and is something that I remain committed to resolving for our community.

While I am proud of the work we have delivered locally and so proud of the progressive reforms the Labor government delivered in our almost decade in office, it is clear to me through the close election result that there is more work that I need to do. I will spend this time working hard to reconnect with important community concerns. The challenges our community are facing are global challenges— inflation, population growth, housing constraints, skilled worker shortages, community safety and more. They are challenges that I will take the time to work through with my community. Slick slogans and politically charged simplistic campaigns will not fix them. There is no easy or quick fix. You cannot govern a state through slogans. I intend to spend my time productively engaging around these challenges to seek resolutions and to make our community stronger and better.

For all of the bluff and bluster about what a terrible government Labor was from those opposite, this LNP government's actions tell a different story altogether. I recall very distinctly being a member of a brand new government in this place. I recall the intense legislative reforms that were necessary to our vision and values once we gained government. That poses a stark contrast to the start of this new LNP government. This is not a government with big ideas or policy, this is not a government of reform; this is a government of slogans. It was a small target in opposition and it is an even smaller one now that they are on the government benches. If the previous Labor government was so terrible, where are the long lists of corrective legislative reforms? It was made really clear to me by an independent observer who noted that this LNP government lied in opposition and they are continuing to lie in government.

Ms BATES: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member has twice used unparliamentary language and I ask that you get her to withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): Member for Pine Rivers, would you withdraw the unparliamentary language?

Ms BOYD: Of course, I withdraw. Some of the first acts in this place were ones that quite simply trashed this institution. For the LNP to gag their own members to maintain unity on a policy shines a light on their fractured foundations. This is a government completely bereft of legislation, one that tells us that matters are urgent and need to be rushed through committees to get them to the second reading stage here and then they are held in a perverse holding pattern, with every brainwashed member of the occult-ish government spewing out the same mundane ingredients in the Kool-Aid list. If we were such a bad government as those opposite purport, for goodness sake, where is the flipping of the tables, where is the structural reform? I have lost track of the number of stakeholders who have said to me that they cannot figure out what this government stands for and what direction they are taking.

Mr Mellish interjected.

Ms BOYD: I take the interjection from the member for Aspley. They rushed their excruciatingly urgent Trusts Bill into this place only to spend three parliamentary sitting weeks debating it. How on earth do they expect to be taken seriously? Once you have cleared the decks of all their slogans and scare campaign accusations, they actually say nothing of substance. I thought it was peculiar when the

LNP candidate did not turn up to long-held traditions such as meeting the candidates in our community of Pine Rivers. I offered to make myself available any day, any time to turn up. I offered to make myself available to meet the candidates in Samford. I offered to the forum organisers to turn up on any day at any time in the lead-up to the election to see this democratic process proceed. I thought it was peculiar that my LNP opponent would not turn up, but now it is clearer than ever.

The LNP are not a party that can respond to genuine community curiosities; they are a party that speaks in sound bites and slogans. If the recent federal election reinforces anything clearly it is that, unless they are scripted, they are useless. They have small slogans, small ideas and use small and petty personal attacks. If you are looking for an example of what leadership does not look like, this government are currently writing the book. This LNP government are not focused on a big vision and big possibilities; they are all about small price tags and being a small target. It may be a strategy for duping the community at the ballot box, but this new LNP government have already duped the community more than once as a government. Just ask their pro-life base who continue to be incensed with so many of this LNP team. Members have been elevated to this place based on support for those causes and chairman Crisafulli decrees, 'We stand for nothing, status quo only—

Mr POWELL: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There is a longstanding practice of using correct titles in this House.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Pine Rivers, address members by their correct titles, thank you.

Ms BOYD: Absolutely. The Premier decrees 'we stand for nothing' and he gags and suppresses members of his own team who actually believe in something. I do not agree with their belief in this instance but you bet I want them to be able to stand up in this place and express their beliefs. I am advocating for your conservative values, member for Glass House. I want them to be able to stand up in this place. I want them to be able to stand up for their beliefs—stand up for something. Self-preservation rules supreme so Premier Crisafulli demands obedience, so, 'soz, backbench, we are all gagged for the foreseeable future.' We knew enduring statewide swings in Pine Rivers would be a battle. My team and I knew every single day counted and that is why we spent every spare minute—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Pine Rivers, could you address your comments through the chair, thank you.

Ms BOYD: That is why we spent every spare minute connecting with our community. That is why we knocked on over 15,500 doors in the lead-up to the 2024 election. We made over 27,800 phone calls to community members to discuss the things that really mattered to them. It was more than just slogans—genuine, meaningful grassroots connection. I want to reinforce to my community that I will fight for them every day. I will fight for their best interests in this place every day. I will not be gagged. I will not turn my back on my values. I will stand up and be their community representative in this place.

My electorate office team were often the first port of call for community members needing help and I want to acknowledge the tough and fierce job they do every day. Thank you to Simon, Joseph, Alex, Ben, Jenny, Maddy, Julian and Kicky. Our red army was not just on the roadside, doorstep, phones and booths; we were out there in the communities with locals every day. Thank you to the hundreds of volunteers who prioritised my re-election in their busy schedule. There are so many who showed up and never stopped working and believing, Labor members or not, and I am so appreciative of their massive effort.

I had the honour to work with an exceptional and super experienced and talented team of men and women in the last term. Thank you to Keren, Ben, Darren, Monique, Shane, Pete, Brad, Maddison, Dominique, Anna and Shezza. I would have been lost without them. Every day we made a meaningful impact. Most days were hard, confronting and challenging, but they were made even easier knowing that we had each other's backs.

Through retirements and defeats our team sustained losses this election. When you are a tight-knit team those losses are felt deeply. I want to thank the members of last term's Labor caucus who are no longer with us. I feel a couple of those losses tremendously and I want to place on record my thanks and admiration for a couple of my good friends such as the former member for Capalaba, Don Brown. 'Bozzy' and I shared a workplace for 20 years. He is a great comrade and I miss him deeply.

I also want to particularly acknowledge my wild mate Bruce Saunders. While I would never recommend travelling in a car that Bruce is behind the wheel of, I will miss our rural road trips. I am so pleased that 'Brucey' is continuing to fight for working people throughout our state. He is a true believer who gives all of himself to the cause. It is people like Bruce who keep our Labor movement, the oldest and strongest political movement in the nation, going. There will be no divorce day celebrations over here.

There are a couple of people in our team whom I have worked with for more than two decades and one of those is our leader, Steven Miles. You know you are a true leader when your inspirational policies are plagiarised and pilfered by your opponents. That is exactly what we have seen here with Labor's 50-cent fares in Queensland.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Ms BOYD: We have all read the member for Buderim's letter about keeping them permanently; that is a matter of public record. It had been a pleasure—

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): Order, members on my right.

Mr Healy: He has to be in his chair, doesn't he?

Ms BOYD: He is in his chair but he still does not have the full facts. It has been a pleasure to be his assistant minister, a minister in his government and a member of his team. Thank you for your vision, deep thinking and care.

I also want to sincerely thank our trade union movement, particularly my union, the United Workers Union. Thank you to Gary for always believing in me and to Jake, Jane and Malley for your constant support. Thanks to the broader union movement and our Labor movement campaigning to make our workplaces and community stronger and fairer; that is something I will continue to champion.

A couple of weeks ago my pinnacle accomplishment hit a big milestone. Now a six-going-on-16-year-old, our EBP is sunshine, exuberance and chaos. My mother through my childhood often wished I had a child that was just like me and I dare say that has eventuated. Life's adventures and challenges are all the more rewarding and exciting when they are shared through the innocence, energy and optimism that a young child presents. To Reece and Eves, the gratitude I have for your support, tolerance and sacrifice—supporting my work in our community—is immense and I do not think it could ever be fully expressed.

Thank you to my wonderful parents, now in their 70s. I got reports back from my team that mum was using her age as an excuse to get out of booth rosters on pre-poll. It is an interesting development but, unsurprisingly, she was not successful. Without doubt I am here due to my parents' sculpting and support. It is a real joy to be able to see them embrace retirement and the things they love in their golden years. I am so appreciative of my wider friends, families and loved ones outside of the political circle. Thank you for providing solid foundations, continual love and laughter.

I often say this role is not a job; it is a lifestyle. By its nature it is relentless and truly rewarding. It is an immense pleasure to be my community's representative in this place. I will continue to fight every day for our community to continue to get our fair share for our sporting clubs, for our schools and for our roads and our future. It is not something that I will ever back away from. I say to all of those members in this parliament who have had the immense privilege of being elected to represent their communities: do not back away from what you believe in, too. Whether I agree with it or not, the fact that we are here is an immense privilege. We are able to make change in a way that most people would not even be able to dream of. I do not back down from that. Do not allow dictatorial leadership to silence your voice, to silence or suppress the needs and desires of your community. Ask questions. Stand up. Push back. That is what we are here for. We are not here simply to occupy a seat in this place, to bow down to the direction that is provided by community—

Mr Powell: By unions.

Ms BOYD: I take the interjection from the member for Glass House and I thank him for coming to pre-poll and helping me win more votes in that last week of pre-poll. Thank you to the member for Glass House. I am a proud unionist, member for Glass House. While he may sit there and demonise them, that is not something that I am willing to do in this place. The member for Glass House sits there and taunts the fact that we believe in something on this side of the House and while he was—

Mr Powell interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Glass House, I ask you not to keep interjecting.

Ms BOYD: I congratulate him on being reappointed this state's environment minister. He did such a terrible job of it last time. I am so pleased he is back in this place able to do that job again so he can do the same kinds of reforms that his community rejected wholeheartedly last time. This is what they are doing: trying to be moderates but, in fact, being extremists. Queensland is already starting to see their true colours and I cannot wait for them to see more of it.