



Speech by

Barbara Stone

MEMBER FOR SPRINGWOOD

Hansard Tuesday, 16 June 2009

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Ms STONE (Springwood—ALP) (12.30 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise to speak in the address-in-reply debate of the 53rd Parliament and to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land. I join with other members in congratulating the Speaker and Deputy Speakers on their election. I extend my sincere thanks to the people of Springwood for electing me for a fourth term to be their voice in the Queensland parliament.

Today I rise in this place as the longest serving member for Springwood. No other member has ever been elected for a third term to the seat of Springwood. So it is very humbling and a great honour to have been voted in by the people of Springwood for a fourth term and to know that they have once again placed their faith and trust in me. I assure the people of Springwood that their confidence will not be misplaced. I am strongly committed to putting Springwood first and ensuring that our local issues are at the forefront of government decision making and policy development.

I welcome the residents of the northern part of Rochedale South and a number of streets in Cornubia who have now become a part of the Springwood electorate.

Mr Reeves interjected.

Ms STONE: This was the first time they voted as part of the Springwood electorate and I look forward to working with them. I hear the member for Mansfield, who sadly lost them. I will pass that on to them.

One of the first issues raised with me by constituents in the northern part of Rochedale South was the need for more buses. I have gone on a peak-hour morning bus ride with residents to get a feel for the bus routes and to make myself available to residents to discuss any matters. I thank Cynthia Gay for assisting me in this very mobile office and look forward to having more mobile bus offices. I was able to put forward their requests and I am happy to report that some have already been implemented and that there have been service improvements for Rochedale South.

Improving public transport is something that I have always worked hard to achieve, and I know that there is more to be done in all parts of the Springwood electorate. I am pleased to see that the focus has been put on improving weekend services, with now a 15-minute service frequency between the hours of 8 am and 5 pm. This will greatly increase travel options and connectivity with existing services in Logan.

The state government has recently invested \$1.5 million to improve services, combat overcrowding and improve frequency of services in Logan City. This has included nine new low-floor air-conditioned buses and additional services each weekday and on weekends, giving a capacity for an additional 1,000 passengers on weekdays and an additional 5,000 passengers on weekends. I know there is more to be done and I am committed to working hard to continue building on these improvements.

I am certainly looking forward to continuing to work with all the schools in the electorate. I look forward to working with the two new schools that have become part of the Springwood electorate, Rochedale South State School and Chisholm Catholic College at Cornubia. In regard to early childhood

education, during the election campaign I noted the LNP's policy in respect of kindergartens on school grounds. I was shocked to read a media release by the then shadow minister for social inclusion that they would scrap Labor's plan for 240 new and expanded kindergartens around the state. In an article in the *Reporter* newspaper, the LNP candidate suggested the kindergarten would be supported if it could be demonstrated it was needed. That only proved how out of touch the LNP are with the people of Springwood. I know that the community strongly believes this kindy is needed. The Bligh government has a clear early education policy and it does include a new \$1.6 million kindergarten at Rochedale South State School. This new kindergarten reflects local community views that schools need to become community hubs with a range of services and programs that would benefit students, parents and the local community as a whole.

There is a lot of maintenance work being done in both primary and high schools and both private and public schools all around the electorate, and at long last we have a federal government committed to public education and committed to assisting all schools. I take this opportunity to thank the Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, for taking an interest and acting to make sure our schools are getting their fair share of resources. For far too long under the Howard government they did without their fair share of federal funding. Every school in the Springwood electorate is a great success story due to the hard work of principals, teachers, staff, students and the very hard work of active Parents and Citizens and Parents and Friends groups. I look forward to continuing to work with all of them and to keep reporting to the House the great achievements that are happening in our schools.

A great community spirit is also found in the Neighbourhood Watch groups in the Springwood electorate. With the expansion of the boundaries of the electorate I gained two more Neighbourhood Watch groups. I congratulate John Griffiths, Rochedale South Slacks Creek 9 Neighbourhood Watch, and Lindy McDermott, Slacks Creek 15 Neighbourhood Watch, and their members for running very successful groups. I welcome them to the Springwood electorate and I look forward to working with them. It is well known that suburbs that have active Neighbourhood Watch groups usually have less crime and generally safer communities. I thank all the Neighbourhood Watch groups in Springwood for their hard work in making our communities safer and I look forward to working with them.

Our community has worked very hard to protect the Daisy Hill State Forest for future generations. Earlier this year that work was in jeopardy due to an ill-thought-out LNP policy. Members can imagine how concerned the community was when it heard the news that the Daisy Hill State Forest could play home to a trail bike park. In January the LNP announced a policy to introduce dedicated bike parks around Queensland, possibly by reclaiming state forests. A local newspaper journalist even phoned the opposition's office to confirm that the LNP was not opposed to resuming state forest land such as the Daisy Hill State Forest reserve. They confirmed this to be true. She then asked whether they could rule out the Daisy Hill State Forest, and the answer was that nothing could be ruled out—another example of how out of touch the LNP is with the people of Springwood. The Bligh Labor government continues to improve the koala centre facilities, BBQ facilities and educational facilities at Daisy Hill State Forest. We are building horse float car parks and walking track facilities and much, much more to improve the Daisy Hill State Forest for everyone to enjoy, yet the LNP cannot rule out plans to place trail bike tracks within the grounds of this unique part of Queensland.

Another major important infrastructure project in my electorate is the M1 upgrade. The state and federal Labor governments have each committed dollars towards improving the Pacific Motorway on priority sections between the Gateway Motorway and Tugun. The state government has got on with the job and ensured planning, project designs and public consultation have continued. Main Roads will commence construction of the Winnetts Road and Loganlea Road Interchange as soon as possible. This will improve access onto and off the motorway for better traffic flow and safety. This is the priority section of the project, and I call on the new Minister for Main Roads to please get construction started as soon as possible. It is now time to see machinery out on the motorway and the project begin. We cannot afford to wait any longer.

Like many in the community, I was very concerned to read that there are about 50 suburban pubs applying for extended trading hours. In general, I do not believe there is community support for extended hotel trading hours. In fact, I hear more support for reducing them, especially at the suburban pubs. While I do believe there is a need for late-night entertainment venues, pubs and clubs, I do not believe the suburban local pub is suitable for this purpose. I believe it is something that this government will need to do more work on during this term to get an outcome suitable to the community.

It is, of course, our police and emergency services officers who will have to deal with the antisocial behaviour that will be associated with extended hotel trading hours. I take this opportunity to thank our police in Logan for the great work that they do. I also thank the ambulance officers and fire and rescue officers who look after us very well. We are fortunate to have such dedicated officers who provide us with a first-class service. This term I am looking forward to telling the House of the progress of the new Woodridge Fire Station. I also want to mention our Logan SES officers, who have been incredibly busy this

year. They, too, are giving our community a first-class service. It is a real comfort to all of us to know they are there for us when we need them.

The fall in the construction and building industry has been hard hitting for many in my electorate. Recently in a local newspaper article Rochedale South was a suburb listed as having a large number of tradespeople living in it. It is important that we as a government make sure we keep our capital program working, that we keep building and maintenance jobs going in our local schools and that we ensure we encourage the use of local tradespeople for these jobs.

I also want to take this opportunity to point out that while many of us have been dancing around when the housing mortgage interest rates have been dropping, our business people have been getting hit more and more with higher commercial interest rates. It is a vicious cycle and I only wish the banks would look at the whole picture and come on board to assist our small to medium businesses to keep going, keeping people working and families supported. We all need to pull together. These are tough times and that is why it is important that as a government we keep doing whatever we can to keep the Capital Works Program going and keep jobs for Queenslanders.

Like all election campaigns there are stories to tell. One of the most memorable stories for me was that of a Springwood constituent who, on the Friday morning before the election, came running in to the office to show us the *Courier-Mail* headline which stated 'Voters Dump Labor'. She said, 'I'm so furious with this headline that I went straight down to the news agency and cancelled my *Courier-Mail* delivery.' To this day she is still very proud of doing that and tells everyone she meets that she is *Courier-Mail* free.

I have to thank many people who helped me during the election campaign and throughout the years. While I have tried very hard to list everyone who helped, I realise that the time limit I have is not enough to do so. However, I will name a few. My electorate staff give 110 per cent effort at all times and I thank them for their support and good work. I know that they are listening; thank you, thank you, thank you. My wonderful campaign director, Melissa Hockey, did a brilliant job. She is a fantastic young woman with a great future. I look forward to hearing about what she does in future years because I know she is going to be one of our great leaders.

To Lynette's Ladies, Val, Hien and Joy, it was wonderful to see their smiling faces every day. I thank all Lynette's Ladies. I am fortunate to have great people like them on my team. I thank the best EVPV team ever, Graeme, Rod and mum and Dawn. They did a wonderful job. To all those who letterboxed, assisted in mobile offices, put up signs, folded and stuffed envelopes, coordinated volunteers, went on booth rosters and did all the jobs that go into an election campaign, I thank you all. I thank Peter and Grace at KamKoon for a delicious election night meal and to all those who helped with food for election day and night. I thank Eric, a letterboxer extraordinaire. I think the final figure was 2,700. He is unbelievable! I could not have done it without all those who worked on booths. To Dan and Roy, what a duo! They are a Logan-known duo. I thank them for all their support and assistance.

I thank the ALP organisers and ALP members for their assistance. I thank the unions and their members who assisted me. A special thanks goes to my union, the BLF. I thank the community groups and sporting organisations that always get out there and support me. To Matt and the South Australian crew, thanks for choosing Springwood. We loved having you here. Matt did a great job. He was a great help and I appreciate all his hard work. I am running out of time so I simply say 'thank you' to everyone. I thank my friends who are always there when I need them, and especially my mum Gloria, my nana Gwen and all my family members. Once again they were there for me, not only during the campaign and on election day, but always through the tough times and the good times. I love them dearly and thank them.

I finish with this promise to my constituents: I will continue to hold mobile offices throughout the electorate. I will also continue to grant writing seminars and provide information for sporting and community groups. I will continue holding seniors' information morning teas. I will continue to deliver Meals on Wheels and my regular segment with our local community radio station. I will continue to keep the electorate updated with the regular newsletter, *Barbara Stone's Springwood Update*. Attending as many meetings and community events in the local community as possible is still a very big priority for me. The most important job I have is to consult with the people of Springwood. I now look forward to the next three years and continuing working with all levels of government to ensure that our local community promotes individual, family and community vitality that respects diversity and is at the forefront of government decision making.