



ROB MESSENGER MP — **INDEPENDENT** MEMBER FOR BURNETT  
PUTTING PEOPLE *BEFORE* POLITICS

# YOUR MESSENGER

Rob Messenger MP  
Member for Burnett

## What has Rob achieved for the Burnett?

Growing up at South Kolan, I never dreamt that one day I would be a politician representing my home community (I had always wanted to join the military). I have only been blessed with this honour because of the loving support of my family, friends & strangers who have put their faith in me & trusted me to help them. For the past 7 years I have learnt that politics can literally be a matter of life & death. I have relied on the inspiration from the deeds of past Queensland generations, who have had to fight & sacrifice everything to try & make the right decision & find just solutions to people's problems.

Being a politician in a busy electorate like Burnett means that you have to prioritise your time & I have formed 7 guiding principles which I would like to share with you:

**1. Protect & care** for all our children. **2. Protect & care** for all our sick, elderly & disabled. **3. Help empower** Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders to live stronger, longer & healthier. **4. Advance social & economic policies** which will ensure our families thrive & flourish. **5. To act as a responsible guardian** of the environment. **6. People will always come before party politics.**

**7. To give & serve** without the thought of receiving.

With your support at the next election, I hope to continue to represent you & fight for a better deal for the Burnett. I hope to continue to be your independent voice in Queensland Parliament.

I put together this newsletter to give you a brief overview on the issues I have been working on over the past 7 years. For details on other issues/or policies, please don't hesitate to contact me or visit my website. Regards,

Rob Messenger

## HEALTH

HEALTH has been a major priority of mine. Ever since I was elected in 2004, I have had a steady stream of Bundaberg Hospital health professionals in my office reporting their serious concerns, including bullying, unsafe working conditions & standards, understaffing & overworking, low staff morale, insufficient resourcing, budget issues, waiting list blowouts & patients being prematurely discharged. There has also been a steady stream of patients coming forward who have received substandard & negligent medical treatment. This has driven me to strive for a better health system for our region. There have been significant improvements to Burnett/Bundaberg's health service as a result. While there is still much more to be carried out, here's some of the health issues & successes I have been able to achieve so far.

### • Mental health services

- Independent review of the mental health service which led to significant improvements & a major overhaul of our Mental Health facility with the help of three mental health nurse whistleblowers (Extra beds & \$2 million in capital works).

### • Maternity Unit

- Highlighted & sought improvements over the unsatisfactory, inadequate birthing facilities which was placing the lives of women & their babies at unacceptable risk (*Part of the \$41 million secured for hospital redevelopment*).

### • Dental Health

- High profile stance on dental waiting lists & forced government to admit their plan wasn't enough.
- Launched petition requesting an urgent boost in funding & resources for a better public dental service in Bundaberg/Burnett.
- \$9.5 million was allocated to a new oral health centre to double the number of dental chairs.
- Provided assistance & fought for compensation for victims of the dental sterilisation bungle.

### • Patient care

- Exposed lengthy waiting lists & assisted *many* Bundaberg/Burnett patients in obtaining quicker specialist appointments & surgery in Brisbane.
- Seeking to raise the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme to equal MP's travel allowance.

## BUNDABERG BASE HOSPITAL

### Doubled overall state health budget

- The exposure of Dr Death in Bundaberg/Burnett forced the government to increase the overall state health budget from \$4 billion to almost \$10 billion in five years.

### • Emergency Department

- \$41 million towards the hospital redevelopment, including a new emergency department & maternity unit.
- Kept up pressure & forced the government to almost triple the emergency department budget from \$3.9 million in 2005/06 to \$9.3 million in 2008/09.
- The Department was expanded to provide six observation beds in 2008 to assist in meeting growing demands until the \$41 million redevelopment was completed.
- Forced government to commit \$250,000 towards upgrades, including a dedicated paediatrics area, changes to patient classification & triage systems, improvements to front counter service & on-site security (This was achieved with the help of nurse Whistleblower Christine Cameron).

### ONGOING PROJECTS:

Deliver a health plan for the Bundaberg/Burnett that will include obtaining a commitment from government to double the amount of public hospital beds, doctors, nurses, & specialists to properly service the existing & future population.

Shop 7 Bargara Beach Plaza  
15-19 See Street  
(PO Box 8371)  
BARGARA Q 4670

Freecall: 1800 819 545  
Office: (07) 4159 1988  
Fax: (07) 4159 2696

Mobile: 0407 904 134  
Email:  
burnett@parliament.qld.gov.au  
Website:  
www.robmessenger.com

Want to help Rob at  
the next election?

Please email:  
Indepnet@bigpond.com



**Whistleblower  
Toni Hoffman**

When Nurse Whistleblower Toni Hoffman visited me & blew the whistle on Dr Death, it was the first time that I had ever met her. It was difficult to believe the horror story that she was telling me, however her sincerity, honesty & her care of the patients whose lives were being endangered, convinced me that what she was saying was truthful and that she was a credible person.

If I needed further convincing that I had to act, and act quickly, Toni's question to me "This guy is killing people—what are you going to do about it?" left me with no other choice but to name Patel in Parliament under privilege.

Toni had fought for at least 18 months to protect the people of Burnett/Bundaberg...it was now my turn to help her with her mission.

In order to continue Toni's good work, I had to fight in the party room to be allocated a speaking opportunity in Parliament. The matter was so serious that it should have been a leadership issue, however the leadership of the party failed to help Toni & myself until after the investigative journalist, Hedley Thomas, exposed Patel's deadly work history in America with a Google search.

**Here's a breakdown of the events that occurred:**

• **Toni Hoffman meeting**

- I first met with Toni on 18 March 2005, where she raised allegations against Dr Jayant Patel relating to his clinical competence and a cover-up of his actions.

• **Allegations raised in Parliament**

- Fought in the party room to be given an opportunity to speak in Parliament about these serious allegations.
- Delivered a Matter of Public Importance speech in Parliament on 22 March 2005 calling on the government to stand Patel aside and investigate these allegations.
- Beattie Government replied at the time that Patel had been denied natural justice & replacing him would endanger patients' lives during the Easter holidays.

• **Patel escapes**

- On 1 April 2005, the Labor Government allows Patel to resign & fly to US on hospital-funded one-way business-class ticket. I helped publicly expose this.
- I followed the extradition process closely to work towards getting Patel back to face charges.
- The government bungled several attempts to extradite Patel over the next couple of years.

• **Attempted cover-up**

- Then Health Minister Gordon Nuttall & QLD Health Director-General travelled to Bundaberg on 7 April 2005 to make a statement that the investigations/report into Patel would be dropped.
- After much pressure & speeches to parliament, two days later Nuttall reversed the decision & launched an independent investigation into Patel.

## PATEL

• **Google search**

- A simple Google search by journalist Hedley Thomas two weeks after Patel flew out, revealed that Patel had been banned from performing some surgery in the US (exposing the inadequacies of background checks & management failures at the hospital).

• **Former Patel patients' meetings**

- First of many victims meeting on 14 April 2005, where I attended & spoke to the victims. At this stage Patel's former boss Peter Leck was stood aside pending the review of the Hospital.
- A meeting I arranged four days later with the victims called on the government to set up a Royal Commission, not just a review, which was unanimously voted for at the meeting.

• **Royal Commission calls in Parliament**

- During a Parliament speech on 19 April 2005 I called for a Royal Commission to investigate the Patel allegations.
- That day, then Premier Peter Beattie agreed to a Royal Commission & made the announcement in Parliament.

• **Commission of Inquiry**

- The Inquiry, led by Tony Morris QC, was underway in May 2005, to examine issues including the circumstances surrounding the appointment of Patel & his treatment of patients at the hospital & the consequences of that treatment.
- Shortly after, the Inquiry was shut down due to "bias" allegations.
- I spoke publicly to pressure the government to establish a new open & transparent Royal Commission, & organised a protest rally in September against the closure of the Royal Commission.

• **Davies Royal Commission**

- Shortly after protests, the second Royal Commission was set up & led by Geoffrey Davies in November 2005.
- This Inquiry found that, while Patel was not registered, credentialed or privileged as a doctor, he illegally & negligently treated over 1500 people & 87 died while under his care.
- It recommended, among others, that Patel's boss, Dr Darren Keating, be charged with criminal & other offences.

• **"Special Compensation" Process**

- Continuously spoke out on behalf of victims regarding the flaws & injustices of the government's 'Special Compensation' process, which saw widows receive as little as \$5,000 for funeral expenses.
- Concerns were raised that the process was structured to minimise victims chances of obtaining fair settlements.
- Victims & their families felt bullied & intimidated.
- Continued my ongoing quest to improve the compensation/mediation process, which included changes to confidentiality arrangements & compensation.



## PATEL (CONTINUED)

- Also fought for former patients who seemed to have been unfairly denied compensation through the government's special process. This has become an ongoing issue.
- **Guilty verdict**
  - On 29 June 2010, QLD jury found Patel guilty of unlawful killing of three people & grievous bodily harm of another person.
  - Patel is currently serving a seven year prison sentence for Manslaughter & Grievous Bodily Harm charges.
- **Campaign to hold others accountable**
  - In line with the Inquiry's findings, others who should have been found guilty along with Patel include:
    - ◆ Politicians who underfunded, under-resourced & ran down the QLD public health system
    - ◆ Public servants who failed to do their job properly & hired Patel without proper employment checks, then covered up his actions & allowed him to continue to work
    - ◆ Union leaders who followed the Labor Govt orders & attacked those who tried to expose Patel
    - ◆ Community "leaders" on the Bundaberg Hospital's board, who as a group authorised the letter praising Patel & condemning whistleblowers
  - In November 2007, I launched a petition to charge Patel's boss, former Bundaberg Base Hospital Director of Medical Services Dr Darren Keating, with the offences of official misconduct & attempted fraud under the Criminal Code.
  - On 10 August 2010 I officially laid police complaints against Patel's former bosses & key public officers who were adversely named in the QLD Health Royal Commission (Dr Keating, Mr Peter Leck, Dr Kees Nydam & Dr Gerald Fitzgerald).
  - Wrote letters on behalf of the victims to:
    - ◆ Bond University: alert the University of the Inquiry's findings against their student, Peter Leck & the possibility of excluding Mr Leck as unfit to remain a medical student
    - ◆ WA Medical Board: request to investigate the issues relating to Dr Keating as per the adverse findings by the Inquiry, as he is currently practicing in WA
    - ◆ Prime Health Group: Findings against Dr Keating & his contract to provide services to Prime Health Group
- ◆ Police Commissioner: enquire whether QLD Health's former Chief Health Officer Dr Fitzgerald, had committed a crime by not suspending Patel
- ◆ Australian Federal Police Commissioner: enquire as to what action, if any, was taken by the AFP in relation to Dr Keating & Dr Nydam, as per the Inquiry's recommendations
- ◆ Attorney-General: Called on the DPP & Attorney-General to lay charges of criminal fraud against Dr Darren Keating
- ◆ QLD Police Commissioner: formally submit complaint regarding Dr Fitzgerald
  - CMC: raising concerns over the behaviour of the Queensland Police Service in failing to prosecute Dr Keating.
  - Tony Morris QC: seeking guidance for victims.
- **Further victims meetings**
  - A series of meetings with victims & their families was set up to undertake an investigation into three key areas:
    - ◆ Whether QLD Health had discharged its promise to all Patel victims that their botched surgery would be mitigated through remedial surgery & that the remedial surgery would be underwritten by QLD Health through public or private treatment.
    - ◆ Whether the system & compensation was just
    - ◆ Whether the justice system had adequately pursued officers within the QLD Medical Board, QLD Health & other public officials
  - These meetings were also attended by non-practicing barrister Mr Greg Williams. Mr Williams gave an undertaking to assist the victims & help coordinate future legal proceedings.
  - A committee was formed to progress three issues including medical treatment, fair compensation & justice. The Patel Victims Steering Committee consists of Mr Williams, Doris Hillier, George Pauza & myself.
- **Further action taken**
  - Held meetings with jailed former health minister Gordon Nuttall to seek answers on behalf of Patel victims.
  - Met with the CMC regarding corruption & waste in the Queensland government.

## RELIABLE ELECTRICITY

- **Electricity upgrade for Discovery Coast (Agnes Water/1770)**
  - This is a project I hounded the government about & has resulted in the area receiving a fast-tracked, far superior & more reliable electricity supply.
  - Funding of a new 66 kV feeder of \$548,000 was allocated in the 2004/05 budget.
  - A further total of \$19.2 million was pledged on reinforcement of electricity supply in Agnes Water in the 2006-07 budget.
  - Substation related works totalling \$2.135

million.

- **Bargara**

- Bargara now has an established zone substation with funds of just over \$2 million.

- **Massive upgrade of electricity in Childers**

- Isis cogeneration received a substation boost of just under \$6 million.



## ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Five new bridges**
  - 'Buchbach Bridge', Yandaran Creek
  - 'Noel Ross Bridge', Cockatoo Creek
  - 'Neubecker Bridge', over Mullett Creek
  - 'Gamlin Bridge', Littabella Creek
  - ◆ *The above new bridges were part of the \$126.5 million Southern Queensland Accelerated Road Rehabilitation Program.*
  - Isis River Bridge under construction - \$4.6 million in State Government funds, \$25 million in Federal Government funds.
- **Murray Creek Bridge**
  - Advocated to have the Murray Creek Bridge repaired & upgraded.
- **Lowered speed limits in crucial areas**
  - Speed reduction & better signage at Innes Park Road, Elliott Heads Road & School Lane intersection (speed limit was dropped to 80kms after the dangerous intersection was highlighted).
- **Raines Road/Ushers Road upgrade**
  - Prior to organising & tabling petitions & making speeches in parliament calling on the government to allocate funds to upgrade & repair this road, it was a death trap & remained in an appalling condition. The road was the cause of a number of unnecessary accidents & loss of life.
  - Raines Road was included in the 2009 budget - \$1 million & is now a safer road.
- **Upgrades to Workmans Road (Sharon)**
- **Bridge across Burnett River to the Port**
  - \$6 million to construct the bridge (2008/09 budget).
- **Apple Tree Creek road safety**
  - **\$3 million** was allocated to the Maryborough-Gin Gin-Apple Tree Creek realignment of two lanes to greatly improve the safety of the road around Apple Tree Creek region (2004-05 budget). Another \$3 million

was allocated the following year.

- **Davis Road, Sharon**
  - Improvements to the hazardous turnoff.
- **Old Booyal Road to Booyal State School**
  - Major makeover of this particular stretch to improve the safety of school children & motorists. This included the installation of new signs, 'cat's eyes' & improved line marking at the Bruce Highway & Booyal-Dallarnil Road intersection.
- **Miriam Vale Fingerboard Road upgrade**
  - Received \$700,000 in the 2004-05 budget.
- **Lucketts Road, Childers**
  - Improved signage from Goodwood Road crossing.
  - Reduced speed limit.
  - Stopped large trucks using this road as a shortcut.
  - Advocated not to get right hand turn stopped off highway.
- **Five-Ways intersection at Lucketts Road & Goodwood Road**
  - Reduced speed limit.
  - Achieved visibility improvements.
  - Installation of traffic behaviour camera.
- **Cordalba rail crossing**
  - Advocated for a safer crossing.

### ONGOING PROJECTS:

- Continue to push for an upgrade/flood-proofing of Essendean Bridge, Baffle Creek.
- Continue to push for upgrades to Walkers Road, South Bingera, Bucca Road & other unsafe local roads.

## EDUCATION/SCHOOLS

- Lobbied to keep Givelda State School open, after the government threatened to close the small Pine Creek school down. Today, the school remains open.
- \$608,000 was allocated to the Agnes Water Primary School administration upgrade & \$637,000 to the Agnes Water library upgrade.
- Isis District High School major classroom upgrade to the tune of \$334,000.
- Lobbying for a school bus service for Elliott Heads State School.
- Rectified problems within Rosedale School (bullying & education issues).
- Actively lobbied for more funding & resources for the introduction of Prep Year (More teacher aide hours, storage facilities, etc.).
- Campaigned for safer school buses.
- Promoted zero tolerance to drugs in schools.
- Played a key role in exposing asbestos problems in schools.

### ONGOING PROJECTS:

- Continuing Bargara community's fight for a high school.
- Continue to advocate on behalf of the Agnes Water community for a high school.
- Driver training education facility for Bundaberg-Burnett youths.
- Lobby to have safety glass fitted in all schools.
- Lobby to expand school-based policing program.
- Told Parliament the need for greater number of teacher & teachers aides in rural schools.



## POLICE

- Obtained extra police at Agnes Water.
- Campaigned for extra police in Bundaberg.
- Secured a new Police Station at Miriam Vale.
- Advocated for telephone tapping powers.
- Helped Moore Park Beach community provide valuable intelligence to the Police Minister which led to many drug busts.

### ONGOING PROJECTS:

- Continue to fight for a permanent police presence for Moore Park Beach. A petition is now up-and-running for this purpose.
- Continue to campaign for a 24-hour police service in Bargara, ensuring our coastal communities are looked after.
- Seek additional Police Liaison Officers in Burnett-Bundaberg on a more permanent basis to tackle youth issues & provide education about the dangers of glue sniffing, illicit drug use, etc.
- Advocating for a police patrol helicopter in QLD.
- Campaign for water police in the Bundaberg-Burnett region.

## EMERGENCY SERVICES

- **Fire Stations**
  - \$110,000 for the redevelopment of the Miriam Vale fire station.
  - \$700,000 to purchase rural operations land for an auxiliary station in Agnes Water
  - Delivery of Agnes Water fire station, worth more than \$1.2 million.
- **Woodgate SES**
  - Obtained central alarm system for Woodgate
  - Advocated for lighting to be installed for helicopter emergency landings at the Woodgate Beach Oval
- **Radio communications**
  - Campaigned to improve ambulance emergency radio communications in Miriam Vale (due to black spots in the region).

### ONGOING PROJECTS:

- **Protecting Emergency Services staff by introducing compulsory sentences for assaults on emergency service personnel**  
(For full details, see *Private Member's Bills*, p.8.)

## FARMING ISSUES

- **Vegetation Management land clearing laws & zones**
  - Advocated on behalf of property owners who have been unfairly targeted by the unreasonable land clearing laws.
  - Declared war against Department of Environment, Resource Management (DERM) for bullying & prosecuting innocent property owners.
  - Campaigned to give farmers/landowners back their rights to clear their own properties (cut the red tape).
  - Identified problems with zoning of properties in the Childers area, causing issues for orchardists. Land was eventually re-zoned.
- **Pest Mitigation Permits**
  - Fighting on behalf of farmers to reintroduce Pest Mitigation Permits to give back their rights to protect their valuable crops by culling a small amount of flying fox scouts.
- **Water infrastructure**
  - Lobbied to obtain surface water infrastructure to enable some 200 farmers, who were relying on salt contaminated underground water, to be connected to the Bundaberg/Isis surface water irrigation supply system.
- **Water allocation**
  - Advocated for a fairer share of water allocation for south-side irrigators in the Burnett.
  - Southside irrigators in the Burnett are being ripped off under the current scheme.
- **Smut crisis**
  - Supported canegrowers in the wake of the smut disease outbreak in 2006.
  - Campaigned for better quality mobile reception in Childers to immediately help in the eradication and containment of the smut disease.

## ENVIRONMENT

### • Agnes Water Desalination Plant Project

- Protested on behalf of residents to stop the desalination project from going ahead for the protection of the environment & marine life.
- Stop the desalination plant to protect two endangered turtle species which nest in the area where the plant is being constructed (Leatherbacks & Loggerheads species).
- This project would also have harmful impacts to the Great Barrier Reef.
- The desalination plant is not needed or wanted & is a waste of \$40 million of taxpayers' money.
- It will be privatised when completed.

### • Coal-loading proposal

- Fought with & helped the Burnett Heads community stop coal loading at the Bundaberg Port.

### • Sand mining

- Fighting to stop sand mining projects in Tantitha Estate.

### • Quarry

- Fighting to stop Quarry proposal at Coral Cove.

### • Baffle Creek

- Support & seek protection for the Baffle to prevent any proposal to dam the Baffle.
- Baffle Creek is one of the only unimpeded, free flowing water courses on the Eastern Coast of Australia & deserves protection.

### • Mary River Dam

- Campaigned *against* the construction of a dam on the Mary River at Traveston.

### • Zero Ocean Outfalls

- Introduced a policy to get rid of *all* sewage ocean outfalls, for the protection of our waterways.

### • Giant Rats Tail Grass (GRT)

- Push to classify GRT as 'endemic'.
- Advocated on behalf of landowners to call on the government to withdraw all fines against landowners who could no longer comply with regulations to control the noxious weed.
- Calls to commission an emergency taskforce to find a biological solution to the noxious weed situation, which will stop millions of gallons of long acting poison from being poured into the environment & damaging the Great Barrier Reef.

### • Water Weed

- I have always been passionate about the environmental health of our Burnett River & have been vocal about the water weed infestation in the river system.
- I conducted an audit of the water weed problem & forced the government to provide financial assistance for a control program to tackle this serious issue.

### • Wild dog pest management

- Shamed the government to find a solution for the wild dog situation.

### • Pine Creek Dump

- Assisted the Pine Creek community to try to stop the construction of a landfill dump out on Cedars Road. Despite several calls for the government to stop this project, council were permitted to go ahead with this environmental disaster.

### ONGOING PROJECTS:

- It is my vision to see a turtle hospital established in Bargara for turtle research, education & tourism opportunities.

## FISHING/BOATING

### • Fishing Bans

- Standing up for our fishermen and women's rights against the unreasonable fishing bans. Campaigned against:
  - ◆ fishing bans of snapper, teraglin & pearl perch
  - ◆ bans on use of ring netting to catch spotted mackerel
  - ◆ QLD Rocky Reef Fin Fishery Review
  - ◆ the implementation of green zones in the Coral Coast region including Burkitt's Reef, Barolin Rocks & Hoffman's Rocks
  - ◆ the unfair Great Sandy Marine Park fishing closures
- Advocated for Woodgate residents regarding NSW netters abusing our inshore fish stocks.

### • Elliott River Mouth

- Advocating for dredging to be carried out.
- Obtained new signage & improved navigational markers.

### • Supporting local Fishing Industry

- Public campaign to promote & support local fishing industry by encouraging the community to buy & eat *local* seafood produce.
- Fighting for correct & clear labelling of seafood to differentiate local produce from imported produce.
- Advocating to increase health standards for imported seafood.
- Assisted local fishing industry in the wake of the floods.

### • Boat ramp facility upgrades

- Voiced support & created petitions for boat ramp facilities & upgrades at:
  - ◆ Burnett Heads
  - ◆ Riverview (Elliott Heads)
  - ◆ Establishment of a boat ramp in Moore Park Beach

## BUILDING INDUSTRY

### • Building Services Authority (BSA)

- Exposed shonky building companies in Parliament, which then forced the BSA to take action & assist/advocate on behalf of hundreds of victims who have been ripped off.
- Assisted numerous homeowners & builders/sub-contractors in their fight for justice.
- Forced a CMC investigation into the BSA, which identified six systemic issues within the BSA's corporate governance framework which needed to be addressed.
- The CMC investigation into BSA found:

- A lack of policy & procedure to guide decision-making process under relevant acts
- Deficient &/or inconsistent record keeping practices
- The retention of staff lacking financial qualifications to carry out compliance investigations
- A lack of structured staff training programs
- The absence of an internal file review system ensuring quality control of audit process & to ensure timely actioning of matters

## TOURISM

### • Water education park

- A petition was launched for a Water Park in Bargara, to promote & celebrate our unique coastal area, reef & turtles.
- It is anticipated that the water park would be an educational & recreational area for families & tourists.

### • Agnes Water/1770

- Actively promoting Agnes Water/1770 region as a unique tourist destination, particularly in the wake of the floods.
- Negotiating to gain a full-time tourism development officer based in Agnes Water.

### • Visiting Yachts:

- Over the past few years there has been a significant decline in visiting yachts to Bundaberg Port. This is largely due to high, unreasonable AQIS arrival fees.
- It has affected our local tourism industry by way of loss of trade.
- I will continue to push for a relaxation of these high AQIS fees to attract visiting yachts back to the Burnett/Bundaberg region & to better compete with the 'no fee' ports in New Zealand.

## VITAL COMMUNITY SERVICES

### • Disability facilities

- Supported & advocated on behalf of Community Lifestyle Support in their ambitions to establish a new disability service program at the Old Barolin School, situated on Elliott Heads Road, Innes Park. This facility is now up-and-running, providing Burnett/Bundaberg children with a disability & their families access to early intervention & family support.

Community program after the government cut \$40,000 funding.

- After much pressure, the Multicultural Affairs Minister was forced to backflip & announced the \$40,000 would be provided.

### • Gracie Dixon Respite Centre

- Providing support & funding towards the Bargara Day Respite program, a service for frail ages or at risk elderly persons, younger adults with a disability & carers for each of these groups.
- Supporting Gracie Dixon in their application for funding to run a dementia Café.

### • Hard Yakka

- Supported, lobbied for & frequently spoke in Parliament about this military style youth training course. It is designed to change attitudes & anti-social behaviours of young teenagers.
- Hard Yakka "tough love" course at Susan River Homestead complex, run by ex-special forces military member Bob Davis, his wife, son & the team from the indigenous peak group "Wandiny", is designed to keep teenage lads out of jail or detention & provide positive life direction. It works! Hard Yakka will be an integral part of my education package of behavioural management policies that I'll take to the next state election.

### • Bumblebees Therapeutic Preschool

- Lobbied to keep this early intervention and prevention service open. (Bumblebees is an invaluable program for young children who have suffered from sexual abuse or are at risk of harm).
- I'm a huge supporter of this program & the organisation, Phoenix House, which runs the service. I have promoted Phoenix House & their dedicated workers in Parliament & remain committed to assisting them wherever possible.

### • Life Education

- Actively supported the Life Education program in Burnett schools to educate children on healthy habits & the dangers of illicit drugs.
- Advocated for funding after the state government stopped financial assistance.

### • Indigenous services

- Actively supporting Indigenous community organisations & services in the Bundaberg-Burnett.
- Highlighting funding, health & resourcing issues.

### • Engaging Communities Program

- Advocated on behalf of Bundaberg's Multicultural

**I have proudly supported many other local community organisations & sporting groups over the years through letters of support for funding applications.**



## OTHER LOCAL SUCCESSES, ISSUES & PROJECTS

### • Dental waiting lists & Caroline Michell

- Before approaching me, Caroline had waited over five years to receive urgent dental treatment through the public system. She was informed that she would have to wait at least another two years before she would receive treatment.
- After campaigning to help Caroline get her teeth fixed, Harris Dental Boutique generously donated the much-needed \$50,000 worth of dental treatment in time for her wedding.

### • Community Halls

- Listened to community representatives & started petition which helped force the government to provide funds to build Bargara's community hall
- Assisted Welcome Creek community in their fight against the sale of their hall.

### • Moore Park drainage crisis

- Assisting the Moore Park community & highlighting the urgent need to clean out the blocked drains & upgrade faulty floodgates.

### • Asset Sales

- Vehemently & actively **oppose** asset sales & marched with unions on Labour Day.
- I'm opposed to future public asset sales.

### • Disability services

- Campaigned for an urgent review & increase of funding & resourcing for disability services, after meeting with Burnett families with severely disabled children who were struggling daily to access vital resources & assistance.

### • Burnett Heads mosquito plague

- Advocated for the community & placed pressure on council to address the mosquito plague crisis.

### • Flood Disaster

- Fought for Baffle Creek & Agnes Water to be included in declared "Disaster Area" after the flood so they could receive fair share of flood relief money.

### • Bororen water crisis

- Led the fight on behalf of Bororen community over their town's poor quality water supply, which was not fit for human consumption. A new water treatment plant is

being delivered.

### • Carlyle Gardens Retirement Village

- Launched an investigation into management of the village & maintenance revenue fund & made the management accountable.
- Called on the government to provide greater financial assistance to residents.
- Continuously fighting for the reintroduction of the pensioner rate rebate.

### • RSL Fairways Retirement Village

- Exposed in parliament the scandalous management practices which had caused harm to the wellbeing of returned servicemen

### • 'Special Economic Zone'

- Working to establish a five year trial in the Isis region for a special economic zone to cut red tape & other unnecessary government fees. The idea is to attract big business to set up in the area & stimulate activity & push the economy along by cutting payroll tax.
- Proposal to also set up these zones in Agnes Water/1770 & other communities that advocate for it.

### • Child Safety

- Exposed bungled adoption, foster & child safety issues.
- Pushing for a Royal Commission after discovering corrupt, unsafe departmental management practices.
- I'll fight to have children's rights protected.

### • Council matters

- Assisted many ratepayers & residents in their fight for a fair go when experiencing problems with their local council
- Fighting against high rates & water charges in Agnes Water/1770.
- Campaigned against closures of popular camping sites (Norval Park) which was then overturned by council.
- Campaigned **against forced** council amalgamations.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

### Queensland's first public child sex offender register

- Commissioned draft Megan's Law style legislation that would give parents & families the right to know if & where the government has moved a dangerous sex offender and repeat child rapist.
- This would empower parents with the knowledge should a dangerous sex offender be relocated into their neighbourhood. Currently in QLD, parents don't have that right to know if the government allow a dangerous sex offender to live next door to them.
- The Labor Government has created & nurtured a system where the civil rights of repeat child rapists are more important than the rights of children.

### Assault against Emergency Service Workers Bill 2011

- Commissioned draft legislation to provide greater protection for emergency service personnel by strengthening laws & strongly reinforce the

concept that an assault on an emergency service worker in the course of their duty is an extremely serious matter

- The Bill introduces mandatory minimum jail sentences for anyone who assaults any emergency service personnel, including police & ambulance officers.

### Civil Liability (Volunteers) Amendment Bill

- Commissioned draft legislation to protect volunteers such as Volunteer Marine Rescue members in the event that legal action is taken against them after performing their duties.
- Currently, emergency service personnel are not *fully* protected from legal action being taken out against them.
- This Bill eliminates any doubt & guarantees financial & legal support to all emergency service volunteers who, in the line of duty & acting in good faith, are the subject of adverse legal action.