



Speech by

JOHN MICKEL

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

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Report No. 1

Mr MICKEL (Logan—ALP) (2.47 p.m.): I will say one thing about the member for Maroochydore: she is the only one capable of making the member for Toowoomba South look good. I will pick up on a couple of things that the honourable member said. She said that the Minister had been caught out. My attention has been drawn to the Gold Coast Sun of Wednesday, 14 October, and the headline "Caught Out". What has been caught out? The fact that no funds were committed to the Robina hospital! The member for Maroochydore also said that there was going to be a slowdown on the Sunshine Coast. Where has she been for the last five years? Under the coalition, the Nambour Hospital was underfunded consistently and it had some of the worst waiting lists, yet the Noosa hospital is coming on stream with no recurrent funding. In actual fact, the shortfall for that hospital runs to several hundreds of millions of dollars over 20 years. Almost \$900m worth of commitments were not funded. In fact, according to one report, those two hospitals alone will account for all of the growth funding. The next time that coalition members go to an election and want to promise something, they should remember that \$900m worth of their promises are sitting out there. They have to get their heads around that if they want to get around waiting lists.

The member for Toowoomba South did not mention that his electorate had some of the worst waiting lists in the State, and that was when he was the Health Minister! If he could not fix it when he was the Health Minister, how will he get on now that there is a bit of equity in the system? Even when he was the Health Minister, the member could not get it right for his own hospitals.

Something that is near and dear to my heart on the subject of underfunding is the Logan Hospital. According to the Budget figures provided under the coalition, Stage 4 of the Logan Hospital is way behind schedule. That is a disgrace.

Mr Robertson interjected.

Mr MICKEL: I know that the member for Sunnybank thinks it is a disgrace, too, because many of his constituents use that hospital. It was not just the Logan Hospital that was left behind; the whole Logan/Beaudesert area has been left behind. I speak up for the member for Beaudesert, because I am very confident that he is feeling ashamed of the fact that the Beaudesert hospital was left way behind in the coalition's Capital Works Program. I hope that the Minister is listening, because the people of Logan want to see some action on the Logan Hospital. We want to see exactly the same standard of hospital as the one that I very proudly opened in Toowoomba.

Mrs Edmond interjected.

Mr MICKEL: I want not only one car park, but transport access similar to what they have in Toowoomba. It was a very great pleasure to open that hospital with the member for Toowoomba South. I think he did a good job on that hospital, even if he did not do a good job on the waiting lists.

I express my disappointment at the fact that there is \$200m worth of unfunded commitments from the election. No funds have been provided for the Jimboomba community health centre. Time and again the coalition promised that, but no funds were provided.

I remember also that before the 1995 election the member for Toowoomba South and the member for Albert were depicted in a photo with the new Coomera hospital. The Coomera hospital consisted of nothing more than a shovel and a bit of dirt! In common with the shovel, the hospital has never been seen since.

Mrs Edmond: It sounds like the Jimboomba health centre.

Mr MICKEL: It may sound like the Jimboomba health centre.

In Logan we want decent, funded health services. So many promises have been made by the coalition. As I said, it gave \$200m worth of unfunded commitments. My good friend the member for Toowoomba South, who very kindly put on the Carnival of Flowers for me when I was up there, had a horrible trait: he was "Dr Yes" when it came to anybody who wanted a commitment, but he provided no funds. He cannot explain that away.

A few of the facilities that were promised but which were completely unfunded were: the community health centre for Bribie Island; the community health centre for Coomera—no funds; the medical school in Townsville, in respect of which \$10m was missing; the bone marrow transplantation unit for Townsville, in respect of which \$680,000 was missing; the private hospital public patient contract for Crows Nest was to cost a quarter of a million dollars, but no funds were available. The same thing applies with respect to the quarter of a million dollars promised for Killarney. \$3.2m is missing for the Cairns Base Hospital redevelopment. In respect of education facilities in Cairns, almost \$1.8m worth of commitments were unfunded.

Time expired.
