



Speech by

DESLEY BOYLE

MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

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CAIRNS BASE HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT

Ms BOYLE (Cairns—ALP) (2.02 a.m.): I am pleased to tell the House of a really important event in Cairns that will happen on Saturday, 21 August. At the Cairns Base Hospital, we will be having an open day for the new building that is part of the redeveloped Cairns Base Hospital. By heavens, I must tell members of the House that it has been a long time coming. As it happened, in 1988 I was a member of the then Cairns Hospitals Board when the members of the board stood on a deck in the hospital and looked at each other and said, "This hospital is too small. It is a serious problem when we do not have enough theatres at this hospital and when we are so short on room."

It has been a long saga through changes of Government for us to get a decision on the redevelopment of the Cairns Base Hospital, for that decision to be made with regard to on-site redevelopment and then, of course, for the building works to be undertaken leading us to the point where, on this Saturday, the people of Cairns are invited to tour this magnificent new building, which will be home to intensive care, theatres, emergency, women's health, medical imaging and medical records.

I am one of those lucky people who, thanks to this position that I hold, has had a preview tour. It is a splendid building. It is the best in design of modern medicine and nursing. I am sure that it will be a building that will be cherished, as it were, by the people of Cairns so much because it has been so long in coming and so much because we know that it will be a building that will house care in the most important times of need. Tonight, I would particularly like to recognise the staff of Cairns Base Hospital, who have been present during this dreadful 11 years while they—we—have fought for this redevelopment. They have been consulted, they have discussed, have reviewed and reviewed again and fought for the funds through various Governments to ensure that we got not just any redevelopment but truly a redevelopment that will last Cairns for at least the next 10 years. I believe that, particularly through the efforts of the staff who would not settle for second best, on Saturday we really are going to see a building that is splendid and that really will lead Cairns in public hospital care into the next century.

We are doing something that I suppose is not usual, and that is having a sausage sizzle at the hospital in the grounds on Saturday and inviting people of all ages not because they are sick or in need but simply to take pride in their public hospital, to come and have a look before, in fact, the building is declared operational, and it will be operational. Over the next several weeks, each department will move progressively into the new building and there will then be an official opening. However, I am pleased to say that the people of Cairns will have the opportunity to see the building for themselves, to remark at the theatres and the amazing equipment, to see the views of the Cairns Esplanade and Trinity Inlet from the women's health unit and from the labour ward, and to see the space that is allowed for the expansion that reflects the tremendous growth that Cairns has had and will, in likelihood, continue to have over the next 10 years.

It is a building to be proud of. It is a building that is beautiful in design for its specific purposes. However, it is also a building that is close to the hearts of the people of Cairns. There is no more important building that a Government can ever commission for people in any community than that of a public hospital. So it will indeed be a proud day on Saturday, and a day on which I hope that thousands of people in Cairns will take the opportunity to come and see their new building, the redeveloped Cairns Base Hospital started by the Goss Government, completed by the Beattie Government.