



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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GOLD COAST, HEALTH SERVICES

Ms CROFT (Broadwater—ALP) (6.29 pm): The Gold Coast is currently growing at twice the state average. Tourists love the place and many of them decide to make a permanent move to enjoy the great lifestyle we provide. While the member for Currumbin wants to turn tourists away, the Beattie government will plan for the future. The Beattie government is committed to building a world-class tertiary hospital at Parklands. The Gold Coast will have a permanent population of 650,000 people by 2016.

Combined with the large tourist and transient population, the need for the new Gold Coast Hospital is obvious to all. The opposition, however, is confused. It is unable to provide a consistent point of view with regard to this matter. The government spent months consulting with doctors, nurses, allied and health workers, and with the wider community on the Gold Coast. The Parklands site received overwhelming support. What is the opposition's response? The member for Gaven said that we do not have time for community consultation. Every local on the Gold Coast knows that we need a new hospital because of the space problems at the Southport site. His proposal to fix this tight squeeze is simple, he told Channel 9 news. He will cram in 200 beds and build Parklands.

He then thought further about the limited space available and told the *Gold Coast Sun* that the coalition would jam another 500 beds into the Southport site. However, the leader of the Liberals disagreed. He announced that he would build a 250-bed hospital at Coomera near Dreamworld. Dr Flegg wants the government to ignore the views of the Gold Coast community and the fact that no Gold Coast Hospital based clinician group supports the construction of the hospital at Coomera. The dream world he lives in does not recognise that quality, specialist staff have already indicated that they will come to a tertiary hospital co-located with the university.

Co-locating with Griffith University will present significant opportunities for collaboration between Queensland Health and Griffith staff in areas including research, teaching, provision of clinical services and development of new models of healthcare provision. This is a hard fact in a world that has a medical workforce shortage. Is there a doctor in the House on the other side who understands how to plan for the future? Bringing back local hospital boards is the only clear policy the opposition has. This horse and buggy policy is no solution in the digital age. The Beattie government believes in the future, not dreaming about the past.