



Speech by

John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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GOLD COAST UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—Lib) (9.54 pm): I would like to point out that it is another day and another health drama. Today it is the Gold Coast university hospital—still a blueprint, yet plagued by the Beattie government bureaucracy and mismanagement. Today the Premier announced that the site for the \$1.23 billion hospital will be relocated from one side of Smith Street to the other. Almost one year after the Beattie government promised the hospital as part of a treasure chest of election promises in a desperate bid for re-election, the initial plans for the hospital have been scrapped.

It has taken nearly 12 months for the Premier and the health minister to discover these alleged problems with the site that was flagged for the development. I would have thought the billion-dollar project flagged as the great fix to the Gold Coast's health crisis would be well underway, but today we are back to square one—back to the drawing board. For the past decade Gold Coast residents have been ignored when it comes to health service delivery, and patients are paying for it.

Government members interjected.

Mr LANGBROEK: It is Act I, Scene I from *Macbeth*, I see, from the shrieking ones opposite.

On the Gold Coast we are at least 600 beds short and our hospital is chronically understaffed—bubble, bubble, toil and trouble. Every day around 40 patients walk out of hospital without receiving any treatment at all because they are sick of waiting to see a doctor. The Beattie government keeps talking about the action it is taking on the Gold Coast to relieve the pressure on our health services but clearly it is not working when we have ambulances banked up in the street treating patients on trolleys. The announcement today proved just how bad the Beattie government's management of health is.

The Church of Christ is going to have to be moved. I was there a couple of weeks ago. There is a debate about whether the greyhound racing track—something very dear to my heart as former shadow minister for racing—

Mr Stevens: And a greyhound owner.

Mr LANGBROEK: And a greyhound owner—a part-owner of a greyhound, I might point out. The Premier says the relocation will save money. I would like the Premier to prove it. Let us see the books. How much money has been wasted in the past 12 months planning and preparing this site for development? We know the cost to taxpayers has already been in the millions. A much-vaunted pedestrian and cycling bridge was used to link Griffith University with this new health precinct at a cost of more than a million dollars, trumpeted at the time as a great contact between the health precinct and the university. The Premier says the relocation will not delay the opening of the hospital in 2012, but forgive me for being cynical of the Premier's predictions when its other election health promise, the new children's hospital, may also be delayed. I take exception to the Premier's comments that he consulted Gold Coast MPs about the decision. Did he contact the member for Robina?

Mr Stevens: No.

Mr LANGBROEK: No. Did he contact the member for Currumbin?

Opposition members: No.

Mr LANGBROEK: No. Did he contact the member for Surfers Paradise?

Opposition members: No.

Mr LANGBROEK: Did he contact the Gold Coast City Council, which was responsible for the rapid transit planning corridor? No, not at all. Not one non-Labor MP was informed about the Premier's decision. His secrecy and sneakiness is misleading. Griffith University is also unhappy with the lack of consultation and the move.

Ms KEECH: I rise to a point of order, Mr Acting Speaker. The member for Surfers Paradise is misleading the House with respect to that comment and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order.