



Speech by

# Hon. Stephen Robertson

MEMBER FOR STRETTON

Hansard Wednesday, 6 June 2007

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Sunshine Coast, Health Services

**Hon. S ROBERTSON** (Stretton—ALP) (Minister for Health) (10.12 am): I am pleased to announce more good news for health services on the Sunshine Coast. We have chosen a site for Maroochydore's new community health precinct which will complement the Nambour and Caloundra hospitals as well as the new \$940 million tertiary hospital planned for Kawana. The state government will build a new community health centre on a 4.9 hectare parcel of land on Dalton Drive at Maroochydore. So far \$14.74 million has been committed towards the project; however, the estimated total cost detailed in the South East Queensland Regional Infrastructure Plan is \$45 million. This project is an election commitment scheduled for completion in 2009.

I am advised that the purchase of the land, conveniently located near transport services, should be completed by the end of this month. The precinct will provide a wide range of first-class health services and will also present opportunities for non-government health service providers to operate on the same site. Hundreds of clients, ranging from young children to the elderly, will receive services through the centre on a daily basis. Several hundred staff will also be based at the centre, which will also provide outreach services throughout the Sunshine Coast.

This is another example of our commitment to deliver improved public health services for the Sunshine Coast. Last week, the Deputy Premier and I announced that the new tertiary hospital at Kawana is being considered as a potential public-private partnership project. The project will now be assessed through a business case development to determine whether private sector involvement is in the best interests of Queensland taxpayers and the provision of government services. At this stage, we are investigating whether construction and maintenance could be delivered through a PPP. Despite some interesting and challenging comments from the opposition's health spokesman, we are not talking about the hospital being operated by the private sector. It will still be a public hospital treating public patients free of charge. But if any PPP goes ahead it will first have to stack up as a good deal for taxpayers.

Another Sunshine Coast development on the move is the \$25 million Caloundra Hospital redevelopment. The government has appointed Ranbury Management Group as project managers to progress the redevelopment. It will deliver an additional 30 beds to ensure that Caloundra Hospital continues to meet the growing demand for health services on the Sunshine Coast. That is in addition to 60 more beds opening at Nambour Hospital so that Sunshine Coast residents can receive more timely and improved health services before the new Sunshine Coast Hospital is completed in 2014.