



Speech by

Hon. Stephen Robertson

MEMBER FOR STRETTON

Hansard Wednesday, 11 February 2009

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Health Infrastructure

Hon. S ROBERTSON (Stretton—ALP) (Minister for Health) (10.26 am): Queensland's record \$6 billion Health capital works budget is transforming health services and delivering more jobs to every corner of our state. From the Torres Strait and Weipa in the far north to Robina in the south, the Bligh government is getting on with the job of building the new health infrastructure that Queenslanders need.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr ROBERTSON: Even in Bundaberg we are expanding the hospital there with our \$41 million expansion. In today's uncertain economic climate, Queenslanders can be confident the Bligh government will deliver every cent of this vital hospital building and expansion program. Last week the Premier announced that work on the Townsville Hospital's new north wing would get underway in May as part of a larger \$94 million expansion that will create 489 local jobs. The three new major tertiary hospitals under construction—the Gold Coast University Hospital, the Sunshine Coast University Hospital and the Queensland Children's Hospital—all remain on track. These major projects will create the equivalent of more than 25,600 full-time jobs over their construction life—that is 25,600 jobs over the life of construction of these three projects alone.

Work continues to progress on the \$450 million Cairns Hospital expansion—a project that is creating 2,100 jobs which would be scrapped if Lawrence Springborg became Premier, throwing those workers on site today on the jobs scrap heap at a time when Cairns needs security, not unemployment. Work of course is advancing on the \$65 million upgrade of Mount Isa Hospital, creating 350 jobs. The \$405 million Mackay Hospital redevelopment will deliver 2,790 additional jobs for the region. In central Queensland the new \$20 million Yeppoon Hospital will have created 123 local jobs when it reaches its midyear completion date, and 380 jobs are being created as a result of the Rockhampton Hospital expansion. The committed projects by the Bligh government to expand our hospital system in this state will create 40,000 jobs for Queenslanders at a time when we need them most. This is not a time for uncertainty. This is not a time to be cancelling projects like Lawrence Springborg wants to do in Cairns. It is time that we got on with this work and created the jobs that we need.