



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 February 2016

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**Long-Wait Lists**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (2.54 pm): I was unsurprised yesterday to hear the Leader of the Opposition rewriting history when it came to the Health portfolio. We had the lowering of the elective surgery rates and the lowering of dental long-waits in Queensland, and no wonder because of a federal Labor government, through national partnership agreements—

**Mr Springborg** interjected.

**Mr DICK:**—and he might laugh—that poured money into both of those things to reduce waiting lists around the nation. In Queensland we had the Queensland Implementation Plan: National Partnership Agreement on Treating More Public Dental Patients. I wonder what that was about. Perhaps it was about treating more public dental patients.

The Leader of the Opposition has to stop rewriting history and start telling the truth about why waiting lists came down under the previous government. It is no wonder the member for Callide does not want to hang around when he has a leader, like the member for Southern Downs. We all lived through 'Joh for PM'; now we have to live through 'Jeff for PM'. Who could not be excited about the member for Callide bringing his trademark people skills to Canberra? Who could not be excited about that? Not content with leading his party to one of the worst electoral defeats in history, he has to take his consultative and approachable style to Canberra. That is the future for him.

We know the Prime Minister is keen on innovation. What could be more innovative than a has-been deputy premier who cannot work with his own party at a state level going to Canberra? That is innovation. That is the innovation future for our nation. He believes so strongly in Lawrence Springborg that he wants to work for Malcolm Turnbull. Not only did he upgrade every airstrip in Callide; he wants to upgrade every airstrip in Wide Bay. There is the air marshal checking them all out. He has a plan for Wide Bay. You have to have a plan for the airstrip, but it is okay; I have rung the Australian National Audit Office. I have put them on alert. They will be ready.

This is an opposition without any idea. We had one idea from the Leader of the Opposition and that was to spend \$77 million on bureaucracy and advertising for a wait-time gimmick. He had one idea, and he could not even deliver that! It is an opposition without an idea, without a plan and now without people like the member for Callide—and can I suggest the member for Toowoomba South will soon be abandoning the ship to go to Canberra.