




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Roma Hospital; Aurukun, Health Infrastructure

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.54 am): Today marks an important milestone in the development of the new Roma Hospital, a \$70 million regional infrastructure project being delivered by the Palaszczuk Labor government. I am pleased to advise the House that the Maranoa community will be able to attend one of two information sessions about a proposed design for the hospital. The new hospital will provide better health services for the people of the south-west of our state and it will support up to 250 jobs over the construction phase.

The 250 direct and indirect jobs over the construction phase is one of the reasons the former mayor of the Maranoa shire, Rob Loughnan, described the government's announcement of a new hospital as 'the most significant funding announcement for an infrastructure project in the Maranoa for over 50 years'. Almost certainly the biggest infrastructure project before that was the previous Roma Hospital, commissioned by a Labor government and opened by former Labor premier Ned Hanlon in the 1940s.

Of course, Rob Loughnan knows how important this project is for the community, which is more than the Deputy Leader of the Opposition does. The member for Nanango said that she thought the commitment of the Palaszczuk government was 'a disastrous decision for the South Burnett'. That is what she said. Now that she is a leader, perhaps she could speak to the member for Southern Downs and the member for Warrego to get their views on the Roma Hospital.

Other than the work being done on the Roma Hospital, this government is moving ahead with a \$90 million program to upgrade vital Health infrastructure, creating 348 jobs across Queensland. One project I would like to mention is in Aurukun, where an existing building which was previously used by the Home and Community Care service will be replaced by a new modular health facility. Tenders for this \$6 million project will be called later this year, and work is set to commence early next year. Importantly, this project will create 24 jobs. It will also provide increased security facilities for Health staff, with 24/7 on-site security. It will also provide the space for the government to provide better primary healthcare services to the people of Aurukun. The Palaszczuk Labor government continues to deliver jobs and infrastructure in regional and remote Queensland.