




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 8 November 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Ambulance Service, Infrastructure

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.05 am): Queensland Health's \$1.4 billion infrastructure program underpins 1,500 jobs right across the state. As I have previously informed the House, we have a number of achievements: a new hospital being built in Roma as part of our \$180 million four-year Enhancing Regional Hospitals Program; \$230 million—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DICK: I thank the members opposite for their support for the Roma hospital. There is also \$230 million in this year's budget for the five-year Advancing Queensland Health Infrastructure program and \$80 million for priority capital works.

When it comes to the Ambulance Service, since I became Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services the QAS budget has increased by over \$80 million. We have increased QAS staff by 225 in the first two budgets of the Palaszczuk government. The 2016-17 budget provides the QAS with a capital expenditure budget of \$59.7 million, including \$15.9 million for ambulance facilities and minor building works and \$8 million for strategic land acquisitions.

The \$15.9 million invested in ambulance facilities and minor works this financial year will generate approximately 48 direct construction jobs and 27 jobs in indirect industries such as materials supply and logistics. Within this program the Collinsville replacement ambulance station is already completed. Contracts have been awarded for projects at Rainbow Beach, Yandina, Bundaberg and Burtinya. A tender for the construction and build of a new ambulance station at Yandina was awarded on 27 June. Building works are already well progressed, with completion expected in March 2017. I am advised that concrete slabs will be poured for a new ambulance station at Rainbow Beach this week, with completion expected in mid-2017. I thank the member for Gympie for his support.

In August the member for Bundaberg and I were delighted to turn the first sod at a co-located fire and ambulance facility in Bundaberg. The member for Bundaberg has been a great champion for this facility in her community. I am pleased to say that works are underway, with practical completion anticipated by mid-2017. I am pleased to say that at Burtinya a 19-bay ambulance station to service the Sunshine Coast community will provide significant synergies across the broader Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service. Site works are scheduled to commence later this month, with completion expected in 2017.

The QAS is busily delivering its capital investment program. Our government is getting on with the job of restoring front-line services, creating jobs and making Queenslanders amongst the healthiest people in the world by 2026.