




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 29 November 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Health Infrastructure

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.08 am): Earlier this month I had the pleasure of officially opening the new \$17.5 million Alpha multipurpose health service in central west Queensland. What a great day it was.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr DICK: I take that interjection. I welcomed the member for Gregory to the opening and we had a great morning. I am delighted to say that more than half the town turned out to celebrate the opening of Queensland's first co-located health and emergency services facility. In every community I visit it is clear that Queensland Health is very much a part of the fabric of local life. As our communities grow and evolve, it is of vital importance that our health infrastructure and services keep pace with their needs. I thank the members of the opposition for their support of this important Labor government project.

That is what the health department's current capital investment budget of nearly \$1.4 billion is doing. This money is funding more than 200 projects and supporting an estimated 1,500 jobs throughout our great state. It is why since forming government we have committed to new projects valued at more than \$500 million. It is why we are delivering in partnership with Australian Unity the \$1.1 billion Herston Quarter redevelopment project, which will include a new 132-bed public specialist rehabilitation and ambulatory care centre. Excellent progress has also been made towards finalising Australia's first new tertiary hospital for 20 years—the Sunshine Coast University Hospital, a hospital that was a vision of Labor and will be delivered by Labor, with the all-important tasks associated with commissioning the facility about to commence. You can already see the transformational potential that facility will have on the local Sunshine Coast economy with a private hospital, the Sunshine Coast Health Institute, new hotel accommodation and retail and cafe facilities in the immediate vicinity.

You can see the impact of health infrastructure investment in Roma, where we are investing in a brand-new \$70 million hospital with demolition works to pave the way for the new hospital to start in December. In Gladstone, we are fast-tracking the planning for a new \$42 million emergency department, work on which should start in late 2017. We are on track to go to market early next year for an upgrade to the Caloundra Hospital and the Hervey Bay Hospital emergency department, both part of our \$180 million Enhancing Regional Hospitals program. In the Far North of our state we are investing in health infrastructure projects in remote communities such as the \$6.3 million refurbishment of the Aurukun Primary Health Care Centre, the \$36 million redevelopment of the Thursday Island Hospital and the refurbishment of other health clinics on islands and communities throughout the Torres Strait.

In every corner of our state we are improving health infrastructure and delivering jobs through our capital program. By 2026 we want Queenslanders to be the healthiest people in the world, and with that goal in mind the Palaszczuk government is committed to maintaining and improving health services for Queenslanders no matter where they live.