




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Sunshine Coast University Hospital

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (12.14 pm): I never thought that in this place I would have to again talk about 'Hospital delay; no way' on the Sunshine Coast. Originally, construction on the Sunshine Coast University Hospital was planned to start in 2009. Then came Andrew Fraser's first budget after the election. Labor went to the 2009 election—when I was elected—and gave a commitment to the Sunshine Coast community that the hospital would be built in Kawana, no problems at all. Then the first budget that the Labor government handed down in 2009 delayed the hospital by two years. The LNP government was elected in 2012. We brought forward construction of the hospital by six months. There was not a brick, there was no mortar. Nothing was done under the Labor government, other than identifying a block of land in Kawana where the hospital was going to be built. It was just a block of land. The LNP came to power in 2012 and immediately started construction. We saved \$200 million on construction and running costs, and we brought forward construction by six months.

Is it any wonder that in 2016 the Labor government has already announced a delay? The health minister did it in a very tricky way. He said that no decision has been made on a delay. Why didn't he rule out a delay? Why didn't the health minister stand in this place this morning and say that there will be no delay? The sign out the front of the hospital, the government's own billboard, says that the hospital will open in November 2016. The health department's own website says that the hospital will open in late 2016. However, the advice we have is that the opening of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital will now be delayed until 2017.

The Sunshine Coast community will not cop it. In 2009 the Sunshine Coast community, in their thousands, stood and protested, 'Hospital delay; no way'. I can guarantee that Mr Brian Ginn, the gentleman in the wheelchair who led the hospital protest in 2009, will still campaign for this hospital opening. If the health minister is not denying the delay, he has a duty and an obligation to explain the delay. He cannot blame the LNP. The LNP has been out of government for over 120 months. What has he been doing as health minister? This morning he stood up and essentially blamed the carpet roll. It is the fault of the carpets.

A government member: And the doors.

Mr BLEIJIE: It is the fault of the doors. There are lots of doors in a hospital. I would not have thought that, under ordinary circumstances, the most important thing occupying the health minister's mind would be doors and doorknobs at a hospital. Then again, when he became the health minister he immediately put a lock on his door. His big priority was to put a lock on his door so that the public servants could not get into his office, because this health minister does not trust the Public Service. He is paranoid about the Public Service, just as he was paranoid when he was the Attorney-General and

they leaked on him in SPER, which meant he got into all sorts of trouble about SPER and the declarations about how much outstanding debt SPER had.

This health minister has a history of not telling the truth. He did not do it this morning. He could have stood in this place and said, 'Yes, there's going to be delay and this is why'. Instead, he said that no decision had been made. I think the Sunshine Coast community can be assured by the Labor government that there will be a delay of the opening of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. Thousands of terminally ill who were going to rely on receiving health care at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital from November 2016 will no longer be able to have that assistance, because the hospital has been delayed. I think that today the health minister officially confirmed that there will be a delay, but he has not given the public any understanding of why there will be a delay.

What has the health minister been doing for 12 months? They have not talked about the hospital. In May 2015 he claimed credit for the construction of the hospital, but since then we have not heard a peep out of the health minister with respect to the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. Are the doctors employed? Are the nurses employed? There are nurses at Nambour who do not know whether, in a few months time, they will be working at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital at Kawana or at Caloundra, or whether they will still have their jobs at Nambour. This health minister has sat on his hands and the Labor government has sat on its hands for over 12 months. They have not acted on the Sunshine Coast University Hospital.

The Premier and the health minister have to come clean and level with the people of the Sunshine Coast, because if the Premier and the health minister want another fight about a delay with the opening of the hospital we will give it to them. We will line the streets and we will protest 'Hospital delay; no way', just as we now protesting 'Road delay; no way', because the Minister for Main Roads has delayed the opening of the road, et cetera. The health minister has to come into this place and explain the delay, explain what he has been doing for 12 months or explain what he has not been doing for 12 months. The Sunshine Coast community will always be rejected and neglected by the Labor government.