




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

Record of Proceedings, 16 February 2016

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Lytton Electorate, Services

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (11.54 am): I rise to speak on a matter of public interest relating to the Palaszczuk government delivering again on an election commitment. The former LNP government stripped many services in my electorate of Lytton, including health services, and this had a huge impact on my community. During 2013-14 our community protested against the closure of the Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit and the reduction of our health services. Our community campaigned so hard and worked tirelessly. We stood up to fight for our community—to fight against the terrible cuts Newman made—and I thank them for that. Our now Premier Palaszczuk, Jo-Ann Miller, Michelle Rafter, Kevin Arundell, Lindy Lamprecht, Peter Cumming, Daniel Cheverton and Laura Fraser Hardy together with many other community activists made a stand against the government of the day's cuts to our services. These protests fell on deaf ears.

In the 2015 election baysiders made it clear that they were very unhappy with the LNP's disregard for our community and gave a loud message that we deserved better. The Palaszczuk government listened to our community and our needs and in December the Hon. Cameron Dick, Minister for Health, committed a new public health service centre to Lytton. I have lived in the bayside for close to 30 years. My husband grew up in the area and my parents and sisters and their families all moved to the area. We have all used the public health services in Wynnum during these years—my niece Grace had a broken arm set there and both my parents spent time in the rehabilitation beds and the palliative care beds, and they also made use of the allied health services while they were still alive—and I, like the community, was shocked at the demolition of Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit. Personally, my nursing mothers' meetings were held in the unit and it is one of my fondest memories watching the joy on the faces of residents when they met our beautiful babies. My dad was also a regular respite patient at the unit. I know how Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit was important to so many people and I am saddened and shamed by the treatment of the residents and their families by the previous government. I know what a difficult time this was for the residents and their families, and I know how important our local health services are. We need to improve on our current public services and ensure that we maintain the current services that are so important to our community.

We need health services that are sustainable and will meet the needs of our community now and into the future. Time has changed our area and we have seen much growth and a greater mix of young families moving back into the area. Locals expect and deserve improved services which will meet our changing needs. The Palaszczuk government listened to our community. The health minister came and talked to the staff and our community about the plans for our community's future health services. I thank him for his commitment and for listening to what baysiders told us loud and clear—that we baysiders value our public health services and we wanted them maintained. Baysiders are absolutely delighted with the reinstatement of the 24-hour acute primary care service, retaining the existing palliative care

and rehabilitation beds and expanding existing services with a guarantee, importantly, of no job losses for staff. We will have a new purpose-built health service centre, with construction completed by mid to late 2016. All existing services at the current Lota site will be relocated to the new and improved site on the corner of New Lindum Road and Wynnum Road and they will be improved upon, with BreastScreen operating with extended hours, an improved rehabilitation gym with after-hours access, an increase of dental chairs from three to six and the 15 rehabilitation beds will be relocated on site. Mental health services will also be relocated to the Wynnum site. We will have expanded chronic disease clinics and access to telehealth services. Our six palliative care beds will be retained and we are currently consulting with the community on how best to deliver these important beds. This is outstanding for baysiders. We have the opportunity to have some consultation, and everyone in the community that I have spoken to on a regular basis is ecstatic that the Palaszczuk government has delivered on these services.

These new state-of-the-art services will grow with the changing needs of my electorate. Like my fellow baysiders, I am looking forward to welcoming our new health services. On behalf of the local baysiders, I thank the Palaszczuk government and the Minister for Health for the return to our area of these very important services.