




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Queensland Health, Capital Works Overview

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.59 am): The Palaszczuk government's 2016-17 Queensland Health budget provides a substantial investment in the state's health infrastructure and a substantial investment in jobs for Queenslanders. One of the projects we committed to delivering in the budget was a new Dimbulah primary health centre. It is terrific to see that the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service has completed the design and procurement phase of that project and plans for the new facility are on display in the existing clinic. I know that outcome was welcomed by the member for Dalrymple and I acknowledge his interest in and advocacy for the project. The project will be delivered for the Tablelands community by a North Queensland construction company, Laurie Lindner Constructions. It is expected to support 12 jobs over the course of construction. That is a great outcome for the far north of our state.

Right across this state, that is what Queensland Health's \$1.4 billion capital program does. It delivers improved healthcare facilities for staff and patients. It delivers important jobs not just in the south-east but in the Torres and the cape, in the south-west and on the Sunshine Coast. We are supporting more than 200 projects, which will improve our capacity to deliver first-class health services throughout our state. These 200 or more projects will support 1,500 jobs throughout our great state.

I have previously advised the House that, since forming government, we have approved new health projects valued at more than \$500 million. That is in addition to 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.

This week the Sunshine Coast University Hospital will see its first patients—a hospital promised by Labor, a hospital properly budgeted for by Labor and a hospital being delivered by Labor. We can see the impact of health infrastructure investment in Roma where we are investing \$70 million in a brand-new hospital. Earlier this month I was in Hervey Bay and observed firsthand the significant work involved in delivering the new Hervey Bay emergency department. This is all part of our government's Enhancing Regional Hospitals program. In the Far North of our state we are investing in health infrastructure projects in remote communities, such as a \$6.3 million refurbishment of the Aurukun primary healthcare centre, the redevelopment of the Thursday Island Hospital and the refurbishment of other health clinics on islands and communities throughout the Torres Strait.

By 2026 we want Queenslanders to be the healthiest people in the world. With this goal in mind, the Palaszczuk government is committed to maintaining and improving health services in Queensland, no matter where Queenslanders live.