



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 24 August 2017

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

**Health, Construction Jobs**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.52 am): I have often stated in this place that the Palaszczuk Labor government continues the fine tradition of Labor governments of investing in Queensland public hospitals. Those investments support high-quality health care wherever Queenslanders live. They also support construction jobs—jobs in Atherton, jobs in Blackall, jobs in the Torres Strait, jobs in Rockhampton, Cairns, Mackay, Ipswich and Townsville, and jobs right here in the south-east corner.

I do not underestimate the importance of the Queensland Health capital program on creating construction jobs throughout Queensland. Some 1,200 construction jobs are supported by our Queensland Health capital works program in 2017-18. Yesterday I was pleased to visit the Redcliffe Hospital with the Attorney-General and member for Redcliffe to announce that the Palaszczuk Labor government will build a new multistorey car park at that hospital. There is no denying that it is difficult to find a car park at that hospital. When I was there, I heard stories of staff coming to work up to 90 minutes before their shift started simply to find a car park. That is entirely unacceptable. It is only the Palaszczuk Labor government that will fix that.

These are improvements in health infrastructure being delivered by Labor, improvements in health infrastructure that were completely ignored by the member for Clayfield when he was the treasurer. We have made an infrastructure down payment on substantial redevelopments at Logan, Caboolture and Ipswich hospitals, with \$112 million for planning and preparatory works on those three sites. That is on top of \$19.6 million for a new emergency department at Caboolture, underpinning 26 construction jobs. That is 26 jobs that the members for Pumicestone and Morayfield can be proud of. Like the Attorney-General and member for Redcliffe, they are strong advocates for health service delivery. They are advocates for health infrastructure in their community. That is unlike the member for Hervey Bay who, since his election, has only been able to deliver a billboard for his community—a billboard on the Bruce Highway taking credit for an emergency department upgrade at the Hervey Bay Hospital.

**Mr Bleijie:** You would rather a big mirror, wouldn't you!

**Mr DICK:** I would have to borrow your hair dryer and hairspray if I was going to use it. There was not a single letter or email from the member for Hervey Bay in support of the project, yet somehow he claims credit for it—a billboard taking credit for a project funded by Labor in its first budget, a billboard for a Labor project that will support up to 120 construction jobs, a project funded by Labor and being delivered by the Labor government.

I look forward to visiting the electorate of Hervey Bay with the Premier when we govern from Wide Bay in a few weeks time to remind the residents of Hervey Bay that it is only Labor that will deliver for them. Unlike the LNP, the Palaszczuk Labor government will continue to invest in health infrastructure right across Queensland to ensure that all people, regardless of where they live, have access to world-class, high-quality health care.