



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 5 September 2017

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

### **Sunshine Coast University Hospital**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.55 am): The Palaszczuk government understands the transformative benefits that government investment in infrastructure can bring to a community. A shining example of that transformative value is the benefits we are now seeing in the provision of health care to the economy and to the sense of pride residents of the Sunshine Coast are now experiencing due to the new Sunshine Coast University Hospital. This is a hospital that was conceived by a Labor government, funded by a Labor government and was safely commissioned and opened by a Labor government. I am very grateful to Queensland Health staff and clinicians who worked so hard to make this hospital a reality, including the Clinical Readiness Advisory Group, whose final recommendation to the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service Board gave our government the confidence that the hospital was ready to safely open for business.

This world-class hospital continues to bring benefits to Sunshine Coast residents, including a forecast reduction of up to 10,000 patient journeys to Brisbane each year once fully operational. Last week I was pleased to see that, two years after the Palaszczuk Labor government began advocating for the establishment of a medical school on the Sunshine Coast, the federal health minister announced that the medical school would finally become a reality. I first wrote to the federal health and education ministers in late 2015 calling for the allocation of an additional 15 places to establish the medical school. One local politician on the Sunshine Coast has always supported this proposal: the Mayor of the Sunshine Coast, Councillor Mark Jamieson. Unlike the Leader of the Opposition and all of the Sunshine Coast state LNP MPs who did nothing to deliver these places—nothing—Mayor Jamieson does not take the Sunshine Coast for granted.

The Palaszczuk Labor government never gave up on the fight to establish a medical school for the Sunshine Coast to give young people in that community the opportunity to study on the Sunshine Coast, but the federal government wanted to pump up the numbers on the Sunshine Coast with full-fee-paying international students. That was never our plan. Our goal was to see the medical school open in time for the 2018 academic year. While the Commonwealth's decision to allocate the additional 15 places is welcomed, delays and reviews by the Abbott and Turnbull governments mean the medical school will now not commence until 2019.

As the Story Bridge transformed Brisbane, so the Sunshine Coast University Hospital will transform the Sunshine Coast community—both Labor projects, both creating jobs and opportunity for the future. The Palaszczuk Labor government has a proven track record of delivering the critical infrastructure vital to the development of our state. We see infrastructure as an asset to build our state—unlike the Leader of the Opposition and the LNP, who see every government asset with a 'for sale' sign on it.