



Speech By  
**Robbie Katter**


**MEMBER FOR TRAEGER**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Forsayth Primary Health Centre; Traeger Electorate, Roads Funding

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (8.09 pm): I rise to talk about the Forsayth Primary Health Centre, and shortly I will table a petition with 250 signatures of people calling for extra services for that centre. Forsayth is a very remote town. If there is one thing we should be looking at improving when we are in government it is these very isolated remote communities. They do not have much, but they should at least have access to health services.

*Tabled paper.* Nonconforming petition seeking the upgrade of staffing of Etheridge Shire primary healthcare facilities [1668](#).

On Friday, 25 May, as pointed out by Karen Norris, who led this petition, there were four medical emergencies—on that one day. The pub near there has been rejuvenated. Simon and Gaye Terry have done a magnificent job doing up the pub and doing up Cobbold Gorge, the big tourism attraction up the road. We have people coming in there, but we have a health centre that is open only during business hours five days a week. Sometimes the nurse or the DON is called out. We had a family coming in off their station with a sick child who had heavy breathing. There was no-one at the health centre. They drove 80 kilometres to Georgetown and there was no-one at that health centre. They drove back to Forsayth before they could get anyone on the phone. These people are already battling adversity. That is the sort of thing they have to put up with. We are calling on the minister to come and do something about this. These people need some attention here. The Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service needs to resolve this by sharing additional nurses in that area so they can have somebody there during those times of stress.

Another issue I would like to raise tonight is that of two particular roads. We are often told by the government if the rural industry is down, if mining is down, you can turn to outback tourism. The two jewels in our crown in the Traeger electorate are the Cobbold Gorge near Forsayth and the Boodjamulla National Park at Lawn Hill. They are wonderful attractions if you can get to them. The last time I was there with my wife a few months ago I got two flat tires in one drive. I got there and they accosted me saying, 'You had better fix this road.'

The Burke shire has had more land taken off it as national parks and there are less rates coming in, and it is put back on them—this tiny shire—to maintain 70 kilometres of dirt. They cannot keep up with it. It has gone from 4,000 tourists a year to 40,000 a year. They are doing a great job of promoting the national park and surrounding areas, but the government is not keeping up with it. There is only \$10 million in the bucket to be shared across all of Outback Queensland. This is a \$50 million project in time. We do not need all that money now. We just need to fix the road to Cobbold Gorge. We desperately need help with these issues. We are trying to keep things alive in these remote areas. We go without a lot. We need at least basic assistance on roads and hospitals. Forsayth hospital needs an

extra full-time equivalent to be shared among the other health centres to resolve the gap that is constantly there and the roads need to be fixed so we can maintain a tourism industry.