




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Toowoomba Hospital

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.53 am): The Palaszczuk government is planning for Queensland's future. That means building the hospitals of the future. While in Toowoomba recently I joined the Premier at Toowoomba Hospital to announce Baillie Henderson as the preferred site for a brand-new hospital for the Toowoomba region.

While visiting the hospital I spoke to some of the hardworking healthcare staff. The doctors, nurses and healthcare team at Toowoomba Hospital do a tremendous job caring for their community. To ensure they can continue to deliver the best possible health care and to ensure they continue to meet demand, we need to plan for a new hospital now. That is why our government is investing an additional \$6 million for the detailed planning for a new Toowoomba Hospital, in addition to the \$3 million we are already investing. That is a \$9 million boost to make sure we get the detailed planning right. This is part of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to ensure everyone in Queensland continues to have access to world-class health care, no matter where they live.

Planning is already underway for the new hospital to be located on the Baillie Henderson hospital site in Cranley where there is plenty of land. The site is ideal because it is 75 hectares and adjacent to the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing. The detailed planning which will be developed over the next 18 months will include a full master plan of the site.

While we plan for the future Toowoomba Hospital, the Palaszczuk government is also investing in health care across the Darling Downs right now. This financial year we are investing a record \$801 million in health care in the Darling Downs region. Toowoomba Hospital has seen significant demand for health services. We are investing extra growth funding to help our hardworking doctors and nurses meet this growing demand, particularly in the busy Toowoomba emergency department. This funding is supporting the opening of an additional 31 beds. Because we believe everyone should have access to high-quality health care, this government is investing in the infrastructure we need now and in the future.