




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 15 November 2018

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Hospitals and Health Services, Infrastructure

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.53 am): On Monday I was pleased to announce the successful contractor for the \$86 million redevelopment works at Nambour General Hospital. Thanks to this redevelopment, Nambour hospital will become a centre of excellence for the care of older people and their specific health needs. The project will deliver expanded wards for mental health services, surgical services and medical services, with a focus on families and older persons. It is just another example of how the Palaszczuk government is delivering on its commitment to build the hospitals of the future.

We are investing \$985 million in our hospitals this year—a \$69 million increase on the year before. We are expanding and improving hospitals and health facilities in Ipswich, Logan, Caboolture, Roma, Blackall, Kingaroy, Maryborough, Rockhampton, Townsville, Mareeba and Cairns and on the islands in the Torres Strait. In fact, we are delivering major capital projects and redevelopments at 40 hospitals statewide. These funds will also progress other health infrastructure priorities including supporting new infrastructure, mental health services, information technology and research equipment. We are completing major infrastructure projects this year in—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, I am having difficulty hearing the minister. I appreciate that everyone likes a hospital, but I really would like to hear the minister's statement.

Dr MILES: I am not sure those opposite do, Mr Speaker. They never funded any of them.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Minister, I would appreciate it if you did not poke the bear.

Dr MILES: We are completing major infrastructure projects this year in Aurukun, Palm Island, Townsville, Hervey Bay and Rockhampton and we are starting construction on the Cairns South health precinct, which I know is of interest to you, Mr Speaker, the Atherton Hospital redevelopment and the Kingaroy Hospital redevelopment, which I am sure is welcomed by the Leader of the Opposition.

Our government is delivering the infrastructure needed to meet the ever-growing demand for public health services across the state. Down here in the booming south-east, our Building Better Hospitals program is making sure we keep up with community needs—projects like the first stage of the Ipswich Hospital expansion, with the detailed business case phase underway; \$281 million for the redevelopment of Logan Hospital, with an additional \$12.6 million for the Logan Hospital maternity services ward; and \$252 million for the Caboolture Hospital redevelopment that will bring the hospital's capacity to 390 beds. The Caboolture Hospital business case also includes the hiring of more doctors, nurses and support staff and a new purpose-built emergency department that will account for the expected community growth.

The LNP would not know anything about health infrastructure. It did not make a single election commitment to build a single new hospital or health facility. We on this side of the House will continue to deliver for our doctors, nurses and hardworking Health staff and deliver for the people of Queensland.