




Speech By  
**Hon. Dr Steven Miles**  
**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 May 2019

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Health Infrastructure

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.48 am): The Palaszczuk government is delivering more and better health care for Queenslanders. In the process, we are not just creating jobs for doctors and nurses; we are creating jobs for builders, plumbers and electricians, too.

Since 2015 we have been expanding our hospitals to meet the growing demand for services right across Queensland. We have invested an additional \$69.4 million in total capital investment this financial year compared to the last—a total investment of almost a billion dollars. We are expanding and improving hospitals and health facilities right across Queensland. In Ipswich, Logan, Caboolture, Caloundra, Roma, Blackall, Kingaroy, Maryborough, Hervey Bay, Rockhampton, Townsville, Mareeba, Cairns and on the islands of the Torres Strait we are getting on with the job and delivering for Queenslanders. For example, I recently opened the Palm Island Primary Health Care Centre. This marks a historic shift to the way health care will be delivered in the region as it transitions over time from the Townsville HHS to a community operated board.

Hervey Bay Hospital's new Clinical Decisions Unit opened in March this year. This unit marks a critical next step of the \$44.66 million Hervey Bay Hospital expansion that also delivered a new ED for the region which opened in January. The state-of-the-art new ED includes more than double the treatment spaces of the old facility. I also had the pleasure of opening the newly redeveloped Caloundra Health Service. The \$17 million redevelopment includes expanded palliative care and ophthalmology services, oral health, a diabetes service and a range of outpatient and community services.

These are just the projects we have concluded in the last few months. We have many more underway right now like the redevelopments of the Logan Hospital, the Caboolture Hospital, the Roma Hospital, the Kingaroy Hospital and the Torres Strait primary healthcare centre. The Palaszczuk government is building new health facilities, hiring doctors, nurses, health professionals and paramedics, and supporting communities right across Queensland.

If Australians elect a Shorten Labor government on Saturday, we will be able to achieve even more. A Shorten Labor government has committed \$60 million to expand cancer services at the RBWH. They have pledged \$15.1 million to build a new hybrid operating theatre at Townsville Hospital, \$15 million for the emergency department in Cairns and \$8.2 million for mental health facilities at Rockhampton Hospital, and they will buy the Mater hospital in Gladstone so the community does not lose that facility when the private operator closes—these commitments and so many more. In fact, our hospitals will be more than \$650 million better off under a Shorten Labor government because only Labor governments deliver the critical infrastructure that Queenslanders need.