



Speech By  
**Hon. Dr Steven Miles**


**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 5 September 2019

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Townsville Hospital, Upgrades**

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.49 am): Yesterday I visited the new endoscopy unit at Townsville Hospital due to open its doors to patients next month. Last financial year over 4,300 North Queenslanders required an endoscopy. That number is set to increase by 1,500 in 2019-20, a 35 per cent increase in demand. It is a good thing the new \$5.9 million unit will double the size and capacity for endoscopy services in North Queensland. The new unit takes the hospital from two procedure rooms to four which will help Townsville Hospital meet this huge surge in demand not just now but well into the future. Once opened, close to 6,000 North Queenslanders will have a colonoscopy or endoscopy at the new unit. Not only are we delivering better health care for Queenslanders; we are also creating jobs. During construction of the \$5.9 million endoscopy unit we created 280 jobs, with almost all of them local. Some 10,000 training hours have happened on this project so far. A local, Wesley, contacted the hospital this week. He said—

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the staff at the endoscopy unit for their professionalism and impeccable care during my recent procedure, nurse Ally in particular for taking the time to make me feel comfortable.

As members can see, the unit staff are already doing a wonderful job. Thanks to specialist Dr Rose Karamatic and nurse unit manager Virginia Carter for showing me around yesterday. The Palaszczuk government is committed to improving health care for North Queenslanders like Wesley, not just for right now but also into the future.