




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Ipswich Hospital, Redevelopment

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.57 am): I am pleased to provide an update on the Ipswich Hospital redevelopment. West Moreton is one of the fastest growing regions in Queensland, with the population forecast to more than double to 590,000 by 2036. The Palaszczuk government is investing a record amount into West Moreton's health services. At the last state budget we delivered annual funding of \$642.8 million for West Moreton HHS, which was an increase of \$35.7 million. The budget also included funding for 87 more staff to support Ipswich's booming population. That is on top of the 800 new nurses, doctors and other health professionals we have hired in West Moreton since 2015.

We went to the last election with a bold plan for Ipswich Hospital, with \$127.5 million of funding for stage 1 of the Ipswich Health Precinct. The opposition went to the same election trying to tell us that Ipswich did not need that expansion and promised not a single cent for Ipswich Hospital.

We are already delivering on our promises, with our MRI machine expected to be operational this year. Planning is underway for the new mental health facility. That new facility will provide a much needed boost to mental health services and create a space for further expansion of the hospital. While under construction, the project will employ around 500 construction workers, which includes local trade apprentices. Recently I was pleased to visit the staff of the mental health unit with the member for Ipswich. They do an important and sometimes challenging job and I am pleased that the Palaszczuk government is supporting them with this new facility.

The MRI machine we are delivering for Ipswich Hospital is a first of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere. Designed to be patient friendly alongside cutting-edge imaging technology, the machine produces its images via a blanket wrapped around the patient. This means that the chamber in which the patient lies is much larger, more comfortable and less likely to cause anxiety. The MRI machine will mean that every week, around 50 people will no longer have to leave Ipswich Hospital to get their images. The Palaszczuk government and the members for Ipswich, Ipswich West and Jordan will continue delivering for the people of West Moreton.