



Speech By  
**Barry O'Rourke**


**MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON**

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Record of Proceedings, 18 June 2020

**HEALTH, COMMUNITIES, DISABILITY SERVICES AND DOMESTIC AND  
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION COMMITTEE**

**Report, Motion to Take Note**

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (3.24 pm): I rise to speak to report No. 31 titled *Inquiry into the Wynnum and Mermaid Waters ambulance station projects*. Each and every day, the Queensland Ambulance Service provides life-saving emergency patient response transfer services for the people of Queensland through 296 response locations within 15 local ambulance service networks. QAS staff deliver 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The great work of the QAS staff can never be understated. They go above and beyond each and every day. The standard of our ambulance service stations are vital frontline infrastructure for supporting staff and the health system.

As a committee, we were tasked to inquire into the Wynnum and Mermaid Waters ambulance stations construction projects and to report on a number of areas that included, in part, the suitability of the construction works to meet the immediate needs and future needs as populations continue to grow, whether the new stations were fit for purpose, value for money—considering the ongoing cost to maintain the new stations—and how well located they were in the community.

In December 2018, we inspected the two new ambulance stations. The new stations provided work areas that supported parking and charging of operational vehicles, including a wash-down area, suitable storage areas for equipment, drug and medical gases, and patient care stores. The multifunctional areas included staff rest areas, general amenities, training offices, study and laundry facilities. The stations inspected were designed to be effective workplaces for vehicles and operational staff and to be flexible to allow QAS to respond to future changes to work requirements. It should be noted that basically the Wynnum site had the same staff involved from start to finish. Through this process, this station had what I feel was a more homely feel and a very practical layout.

We also invited submissions—and four were received—and conducted a public hearing. The committee concluded these new stations were fit for purpose in terms of location, size, functionality and technical and environmental performance. We also concluded that the costs of the work were reasonable, were satisfied that they were delivered in a timely manner and were well located and value for money. I thank our secretariat and the team for their work in producing this report. Finally, I again thank the QAS staff for the great job they do each and every day. I commend the report to the House.