




Speech By
Lance McCallum

MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

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MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Health Services

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (2.54 pm): We cannot put a price on the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders. We are in the middle of an unprecedented global health pandemic. Now, more than ever, free, world-class health care is vital. That is why the Palaszczuk government continues to invest in the rapidly expanding West Moreton Hospital and Health Service, committing \$25 million for a new 26-bed ward at Ipswich Hospital. This is the first new ward at the hospital for about six years. It will help meet demand in our state's fastest growing healthcare region.

We have also delivered a new MRI suite—a state-of-the-art machine that is expected to provide more than 3,700 services a year. While the LNP when they were last in government sacked 124 frontline health workers in Ipswich, these investments by the Palaszczuk government will deliver more doctors and nurses for our local community, as will the hospital's new \$91 million, 50-bed acute mental health unit, supporting over 100 jobs during construction as we unite and recover.

Frontline health staff continue their outstanding work at the Ipswich Hospital Fever Clinic, and as of today the West Moreton region has no active COVID cases and has had only 39 since the start of March. Can you imagine what those numbers might be had our borders been opened too early? That is the real-world impact on Queenslanders of irresponsible calls and decisions.

I want to acknowledge the outstanding work of the West Moreton health team, led by CEO Dr Kerrie Freeman and chair Michael Willis. Thank you to all the frontline health staff who are playing such a vital role in leading Queensland forward.

Our commitment to unite and recover for Queensland jobs extends well beyond the health sector. It is on full display right across the Bundamba community. On the weekend I was proud to attend the official reopening of the Goodna Services Club. The near \$2 million refurbishment gives the historic club a new look inside and out. Like many pubs, clubs, cafes and restaurants across Queensland, president Russell Dewar and his team got to work during the COVID closure, supporting local tradies and contractors with refurbs, refits and renovations. Now their hard work is being rewarded with renewed community support.

Locally we also have major industry leaders like Progress Rail and TAE Aerospace—world-class organisations that continue to innovate and maintain operations during the COVID pandemic. Recently I had the pleasure of meeting workers at both facilities. I am proud to say that they are keeping locals in jobs while exploring new ways to expand and diversify.

Our \$6 billion Works for Queensland economic recovery strategy will deliver \$2 million in upgrades to local facilities—a new playground, car park, lighting and landscaping at Redbank Plains Recreation Reserve; improved drainage and water quality at Bellbird Park's Moodai Reserve; and upgraded change rooms at Richardson Park in Goodna.

The Redbank Plains project is the centrepiece of a \$4.4 million investment in Ipswich. This is a great asset for the Bundamba community, and the upgrade will further broaden its appeal as we all work towards a healthier and more active Queensland. This reserve continues to be a destination for locals and visitors alike, and this is a welcome investment in our youth, our families and our greenspaces that will support local jobs.

We continue to manage our health response. Our success has been recognised around the world, and it is being balanced with unprecedented levels of infrastructure and economic investment. I want to acknowledge the work of the Premier, the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health, and our Chief Health Officer for their careful and considered management of Queensland's COVID health response.

While we all must remain responsible and respect social distancing—and that includes the member for Surfers Paradise—we are moving forward with a determined sense of Queensland spirit as we unite and recover.