




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

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Record of Proceedings, 20 May 2020

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Coronavirus, Economic Response

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.39 am): Queenslanders united to fight COVID-19 and now we are uniting for economic recovery. Health may have been at the front line of fighting this virus, but it also has a vital role to play in the recovery. The Palaszczuk government has always invested in building hospitals because we know how important it is to the wellbeing of Queenslanders and also to our economy. Our hospital building program will create recovery jobs right across the state. This week we released the designs for the \$394.6 million major Caboolture Hospital redevelopment project. The police minister and the member for Bancroft joined me at the hospital recently to meet the new contractor and see the plans.

This is one of the biggest hospital redevelopments in Queensland, delivering 130 more beds and expanded services. Not only will the project boost hospital capacity once complete; it will also create up to 1,260 full-time jobs over five years in the region, with 350 workers on site each day during peak construction periods. This project will also deliver on the Palaszczuk government's priorities to support opportunities for apprenticeships and trainees. The Palaszczuk government is currently building 173 new or upgraded health facilities across the state supporting more than 1,200 full-time jobs, including more than 120 apprentices. We are building hospitals from the top of the state to the bottom. In Far North Queensland the Thursday Island Hospital redevelopment will support a total of 104 full-time jobs over two years while the construction of the Cairns Hospital Mental Health Unit will support a total of 201 full-time jobs across the three-year life of that project. I know the members for Cook, Barron River, Cairns and you, Mr Speaker, are very excited about these projects for their communities.

The members for Waterford, Woodridge, Logan, Macalister and Springwood are also excited about the major redevelopment at Logan Hospital. Logan Hospital just celebrated its 30th birthday—built and opened by a Labor government and now getting its biggest expansion ever from a Labor government. Works on the Logan Hospital—which include a major expansion with an extra 206 beds, a new multistorey car park and a maternity service upgrade—will support a total of 1,565 full-time jobs over five years. We are building hospitals from our coastline to the outback. There is the Nambour General Hospital redevelopment which is forecast to support a total of 252 full-time jobs over four years and there is the Roma Hospital redevelopment which is supporting a total of 333 full-time jobs over three years.

These are fantastic projects delivered by a Labor government making significant contributions to regional economies through the purchase of equipment, supplies and services. Even maintaining our existing assets also supports Queensland jobs, with up to 238 full-time jobs supported each year undertaking this important work. We on this side of the House are proud to support hundreds of jobs for Queenslanders while continuing to bolster our economic response to the pandemic. It was our strong healthcare system that protected us from this virus and, by continuing to expand it, it will support us in our recovery.