




Speech By
Adrian Tantari

MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY

Record of Proceedings, 11 March 2021

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Hervey Bay Electorate, Ambulance Station

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (2.52 pm): I take this opportunity to inform the House of a great outcome that has been delivered on time in the Hervey Bay electorate by the Palaszczuk Labor government. As I have previously made members aware in this place, coming off the back of the Palaszczuk government's strong health response that kept Hervey Bay safe, the Hervey Bay electorate is getting back to normal. Because of the strong economic recovery plan we are on the path to recovery.

Last week I had the honour to welcome to Hervey Bay the Assistant Minister for Health and Regional Health Infrastructure who, on behalf of the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, officially opened Hervey Bay's second ambulance station at Urraween. In attendance as well on the day was my regional colleague, the member for Maryborough, who worked alongside me to secure this long-term infrastructure which sits on our respective electorate boundaries.

As part of its strong regional focus on health, the Palaszczuk government has delivered on its promise to build back better and with this new \$3.2 million state-of-the-art ambulance station it has done so. This station is an important step in enhancing ambulance services in Hervey Bay. The station will be home to 16 advanced care paramedics and an officer in charge, as well as an Indigenous cadet, with two new positions being created as part of the Palaszczuk government's commitment of additional officers starting across the state.

Staff operating at the new station will have access to state-of-the-art facilities, including a six-bay plant room, office space, day room, patient care store, rest study rooms, write-up area, training space, staff amenities and, more importantly, it will allow for future expansion. The building phase of this project created around 10 construction jobs during its completion, which were vital jobs for the tradies and apprentices of Hervey Bay at a time when they were most needed during the COVID pandemic.

The Urraween Ambulance Station will provide 24-hour rapid response to the developing areas of Booral and River Heads, as well as to the member for Maryborough's electorate areas of Dundowran Beach and Craignish and further afield to Toogoom and Burrum Heads. The station is strategically positioned next to the Maryborough Hervey Bay Road to enable a swift response in either direction. This new station is proof of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to keeping regional Queenslanders safe. In Hervey Bay and the Fraser region it shows that planning for new infrastructure and services is always ongoing, which is in stark contrast to the health sellout of the last LNP government that cut our regional nurses and doctors.

Every week more and more families are making the Hervey Bay electorate their home because, as we know on this side, the Palaszczuk government has made Queensland the place to be and is committed to delivering the best care when people find themselves in need. This new ambulance station will be keeping the Hervey Bay electorate safe and strong. This is a great new piece of health infrastructure that our regional communities can all be proud of, delivered as promised by the Palaszczuk Labor government for the people of Hervey Bay.