



Speech By
Ali King

MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

Record of Proceedings, 22 April 2021

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Pumicestone Electorate, Health Services; Beachmere Road Upgrade

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (2.56 pm): The Palaszczuk Labor government is achieving big things in Pumicestone. It is 173 days since I was elected and already we have some important updates for the Pumicestone community. Public health care is at the very heart of my values because it truly changes lives, as it has changed mine.

When our Premier came to Pumicestone before the election to announce our new satellite hospitals for Bribie Island and Caboolture, it warmed the hearts of people old and young. With so many elderly people travelling long distances for hospital appointments, our Bribie satellite hospital is just what the doctor ordered for our community. Not a day goes by without someone asking me for an update.

Right now there is plenty of action happening behind the scenes to get our satellite hospitals built by 2023. Building hospitals takes time, but it is important to get it right. I am grateful for our community's patience while the Department of Health works together with Metro North Hospital and Health Service and the department of state development to get the groundwork right. There is a long road ahead, but I will be advocating strongly for our community through the process and sharing every milestone with members along the way. I am also looking forward to getting the word out when community consultation opens so that locals can have their say about the services they think are most important.

I take this opportunity to compare Labor's huge local investments in health with the LNP's dire health record when in government. We know that they cut 4,400 health workers across Queensland and they also sacked 731 local nurses from my health area. They planned no new hospitals. They also said that the Caboolture Hospital's \$400 million upgrades were not needed. Long ago I became part of the labour movement because Labor backs people's health. Now Labor is backing the health of the people in Pumicestone, and I could not be more proud.

I also have great news today for the people of Beachmere. Beachmere is a wonderful township, and residents tell me over and over that they like it just the way it is, with one exception—they want to see Beachmere Road upgraded. That is why I worked hard to secure a commitment of \$7.775 million for community consultation, planning and key upgrades for Beachmere Road. This money will fund key safety upgrades and build a list of the community's top priorities that I can fight for into the future.

Today I can announce that the community consultation is open. Locals can go to the TMR website, search 'Beachmere Road' and contribute their thoughts to the interactive map. It is time for Beachmere locals to have their say about what upgrades are needed most. I am proud to be part of a Palaszczuk Labor government that is delivering on health and roads.