




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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MOTION

Bundaberg, Health Services

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (5.23 pm): What an absolute waste of the extra minute that was! When the member for Bundaberg has nothing to say he just starts making it up. What a load of absolute rot that was! I will tell the House who stood up for that community when the 2013 floods happened. The Newman government stood up for that community and it was the former member for Bundaberg, David Batt, who, as a member of the council, led the recovery.

I know that the current member for Bundaberg was not a resident at that time and he does not actually know so let's get the facts straight. The person who is standing up for Bundaberg is the member for Burnett. The member for Burnett is the one who comes into this House each and every week and raises the concerns of the Bundaberg community. They are suffering because they have the sort of member who, when given the opportunity to speak about the great town of Bundaberg, takes nearly two minutes to even mention the word 'Bundaberg', let alone 'Wide Bay'. I dare say if you are from Brissie you do not know where the Wide Bay is.

The member for Bundaberg went to the last state election committing to a level 5 hospital. We know that because the information has been tabled. We have Facebook posts, tweets, bits and pieces and recordings that went out. Guess what the member now says? He has made the health minister tell the people of Bundaberg that they are so simple they do not understand what a level 5 hospital is. Now they are trying to tell the people of Bundaberg and the Wide Bay, 'I'm sorry, but we meant five levels.' Are you kidding me? What an absolute joke! I grew up in regional Queensland. I was born in Miles Hospital. I am very proud to be from regional Queensland. I had a decent education. I am from the Wide Bay and I know what a level 5 hospital is. It does not mean 'five levels'. What an embarrassment to treat the people of the Wide Bay with that sort of contempt.

This week it was the member for Burnett who once again came into this House and raised the issue of breast screening in Bundaberg and the regions. Where was the mention of that? Why is the member for Bundaberg not screaming from the rooftops in support of the health staff in that region? The member for Bundaberg should be out there screaming for support and more help for the hardworking nurses, doctors and radiologists. They are the people who are looking for support from their local member of parliament. Where is the member for Bundaberg? He is completely missing in action!

The member for Bundaberg is busy hiding his head in the sand over the debacle that is the ripping down of Paradise Dam, but now he has to work out how he will communicate to his community about the ripping down of a level 5 hospital. They are ripping down Paradise Dam and now we have a fake promise about the hospital. Honestly, give us a break in the Wide Bay! We want the health services to be fixed again.

It was the last LNP government that got the long dental waitlist down to zero. We cleared the list of people who had been waiting for up to eight years under the then Beattie-Bligh governments. Do members remember those years? The then premier stood up and said that the health system was a

debacle and that it should be split into two or three—or whatever it was. Guess what, ladies and gentlemen? We are back there right now and there is no greater example of that than what is happening in the Wide Bay. The new hospital in Kingaroy floods every time it rains. It is a brand new hospital. Can this government get nothing right?

The people of Bundaberg deserve the level 5 hospital that was committed to and promised by the Palaszczuk government. It is what they went to the election with. It is what they told the people of Bundaberg and Wide Bay they would do. Those people did not expect to be spoken down to or to be spoken to with the utter contempt shown by the member for Bundaberg, this health minister and the Premier. I say: bring back David Batt.