



Speech By
Mark Robinson

MEMBER FOR OODGEROO

Record of Proceedings, 23 February 2021


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (2020-2021) BILL

APPROPRIATION (2020-2021) BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation (2020-2021) Bill

Health and Environment Committee, Report

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (5.11 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate of the estimates report of the Health and Environment Committee. The headline issue is that, despite record borrowings with debt increasing by \$28 billion, there is insufficient investment in infrastructure—job-creating, growth-creating infrastructure—across Queensland and particularly in the Redlands coast and Cleveland area. The government has borrowed to keep the lights on rather than invest heavily in infrastructure, and this imbalance is hurting Redlanders and needs to be addressed. In terms of health and ambulance services and Redland Hospital, for the years I have been the member for Cleveland and now Oodgeroo under the Bligh and Palaszczuk governments—that is, nine of almost 12 years that I have been in the House—there has been little state funding to upgrade Redland Hospital. Redland Hospital is being treated as the poorer cousin and has fallen behind comparatively to other hospitals.

It is to the shame of this government that it has ignored the health needs of Redlanders for so many years. It rejected my calls for an ICU to start with and it took a community campaign, pressure from myself and the federal LNP's \$30 million commitment before Labor finally, and belatedly, dusted off its chequebook and promised to go halves in ICU beds and car parking with Andrew Laming and the federal LNP. Imagine what would have happened if COVID had been far worse than it has been in Queensland and what would have happened in the Redlands without an ICU unit and not a single ICU bed. Due to this government's mismanagement of Queensland Health we were not ready for a major COVID outbreak in the Redlands coast region, so belatedly Labor has promised a small ICU for Redland Hospital. While it is small beginnings, it is urgently needed and I call on the government to fast-track its construction.

There is then the decision to give away the land around the hospital—the land that is needed for the hospital's future expansion to provide for the growing and ageing Redlands population. Future generations of Redlanders will hold this government to account for selling out their health. Then there are the cuts to dental surgery. It saddens me to report that patients have been advised that Redland Hospital is not doing adult dental surgeries that require anaesthesia. Redland Hospital adult oral health patients requiring anaesthesia are being referred now to other hospitals, some of which are hospitals with extensive waiting lists already. In some cases there are patients with disabilities and family members now have to take them much further than is optimal, and that is not helping their situation. Let us contrast this with the LNP's record in government that saw Labor's dental waiting list at Redland Hospital dramatically reduced from approximately 10,000 patients down to almost zero.

I could comment on the Cleveland satellite hospital. There has been an absolute debacle in terms of the satellite hospital in the budget mentioned by the Treasurer and labelled as the Cleveland satellite hospital and later on seemingly corrected, with other ministers making comments about it being for Redlands and other local members saying it is for Redland Bay. There seems to be confusion in the government about where it actually should go. Was it originally for Cleveland, which would make sense, near the Redland Hospital? Did it get moved for political purposes? The government needs to come clean and answer these questions.

Then there is the ambulance ramping which is growing rapidly again across South-East Queensland hospitals. Reports of up to 18 ambulances ramped in one morning at Redland Hospital very recently shows that the system is letting Redlanders down. In terms of palliative care, while the government is increasing palliative care funding—and we welcome it—it is insufficient to provide the care that terminally ill patients need across Queensland and in the Redlands.

I want to use the remainder of my time to mention some environmental issues. In terms of Stradbroke Island, we have the headlands overdevelopment and the whale centre that needs to be located somewhere else but instead the government is building it on sensitive environmental land in pristine areas of Point Lookout. Conservation groups and the majority of Quandamooka people are against it and only Jackie Trad and her cronies support the clearing of this pristine and environmentally sensitive point near the headlands. A Quandamooka Truth Embassy has been developed in protest with the Quandamooka people wanting to be heard, and this government needs to hear them. There has also now been an inquiry announced—a financial investigation—by the Office of the Registrar of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporations into QYAC. There have been questions about QYAC's alleged financial irregularities that this government will not investigate, and I table a copy of the letter of this federal investigation into those finances and encourage the government to do likewise and come out with the truth.

Tabled paper: Document, dated 23 February 2021, regarding authorisations under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 [171](#).

(Time expired)