



Speech By  
**Mark Robinson**

**MEMBER FOR OODGEROO**

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Record of Proceedings, 31 August 2021


**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**

**APPROPRIATION BILL**

**Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)**

**Appropriation Bill**

**Health and Environment Committee, Report**

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (5.58 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate of the budget estimates of the Health and Environment Committee. In terms of health and ambulance services, what is becoming clearer every day is that this government is losing control of health. While there is no doubt that COVID has stretched the system, we would have fared far better if Queensland Health had not already been a basket case under successive Labor governments before going into the health crisis. For example, in the Redlands we still have no intensive care unit at Redland Hospital. Redlands residents were not kept safe by this government and still are not safe. For the past six long years the Palaszczuk government has ignored community calls, has ignored the medical grounds and basis for work to be done and has ignored my calls for an ICU. Despite six years of calling for it, there is no ICU. They are the facts.

There is not one ICU bed to service 150,000 Redland residents—not one ICU bed to service a growing region of 150,000 residents. The Redlands community was vulnerable and susceptible to the pandemic because of this government's inaction on health. Government members might not like the facts nor the truth, but it is what it is. The government has been dragged into agreeing—finally—to an ICU, albeit a small one but a good start, somewhere in the future.

As I said in my speech on the budget, over the last six years there has been little state funding to upgrade Redland Hospital other than the normal funding to maintain it. For many years this government has ignored the health needs of our growing and ageing region. I want to thank the federal LNP for leading the way with its catalytic funding that got things moving on the upgrade. The federal LNP funding got things moving again—the \$30 million commitment to the ICU and upgrade and additional funds for the car park. Belatedly, the Palaszczuk government has caught up and agreed to matching funding. The state government now needs to fast-track these projects and not drag its feet and announce it again on an election eve in 2024. A bigger ICU will soon be needed. A helipad for island emergencies, as previously promised, is needed too. Labor committed to the helipad back when the former member for Lytton Paul Lucas was the health minister. In terms of the car park, thanks again to the federal LNP for the funding to get this finally underway. The state government has to now build it and it is yet to announce what the parking costs will be and whether any free public spaces will be removed.

In terms of palliative care, we now know how underfunded palliative care has been across the whole state. This has resulted in many terminally ill people suffering needlessly. The LNP government started the palliative care service at Redland Hospital and boosted the in-home services. We are keen to know what future investment will happen at Redland Hospital in palliative care and I encourage the minister to provide that information. It has also been reported that Redland Hospital's capacity to undertake adult dental surgeries that require anaesthesia has been reduced, with some patients having to be referred to other hospitals, some hospitals with already extensive waiting lists.

Then there has been the Cleveland satellite hospital debacle that I mentioned in my speech on the budget. Previous budget documents say that the government will build the Cleveland satellite hospital. The people of Cleveland took that to mean Cleveland, funnily enough. Then another budget said it meant Redlands and then we find out that Cleveland actually equals Redland Bay. The two are entirely distinct cities, if government members wanted to know. The government's plans for health in the Redlands are a shambles. Then there is ambulance ramping that is growing rapidly across South-East Queensland hospitals, and Redland Hospital sadly is one of the worst.

In terms of the environment during the estimates committee, when we look at North Stradbroke Island the issue of the headlands overdevelopment is still there because of the Quandamooka revolt about it and the Truth Embassy at Point Lookout. I invite government members to come and visit and see it live. Then there is the whale centre that will be built on sensitive environmental land. Conservation groups are opposed, the Quandamooka people largely are opposed, local businesses are opposed. Very few people want this development—a development like this on pristine and environmentally sensitive Point Lookout headlands. That is why the government only got six per cent of the primary vote at the Point Lookout booth. There are lessons there and I hope it will listen. The Premier moved the project to less environmentally sensitive areas.