




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Health System, Infrastructure

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.52 am): As we continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Queensland government is also continuing to invest in health infrastructure and services to support our health system long into the future. This financial year we are injecting more than \$1.6 billion into capital investment to boost health infrastructure. Queensland Health is currently delivering more than 120 construction projects across the state, with the 2020-21 built infrastructure program supporting more than 1,500 full-time-equivalent jobs. These projects are meeting future service demand, implementing interim demand measures and renewing ageing infrastructure.

First and foremost, I am happy to report that construction has started on the new ward at Ipswich Hospital. This \$25 million project will create 26 additional beds and an improved outpatient area at Ipswich Hospital as well as the refurbishment of the tower block levels 6 and 7. This important project will enable Ipswich Hospital to expand and cater for future demand for the rapidly growing West Moreton region and improve access to top-quality health care closer to home. I am also pleased to inform the House that work is progressing on the redevelopment of the public hospitals at Logan and Caboolture and that works on Nambour Hospital are expected to be completed by the end of this calendar year.

Before the last election the Premier reiterated her commitment to govern in the interests of all Queenslanders, irrespective of where they live. There is no clearer manifestation of that promise than in the investment we are continuing to make in the delivery of health services in rural and remote communities. The list of those many projects is too long to report in its entirety in this statement but they include: the Gladstone Hospital Specialist Outpatient Unit, the Thursday Island Hospital and Primary Healthcare Centre, the Mer Island Primary Healthcare Centre, the Cairns Mental Health Unit, the Emerald Hospital Emergency Department upgrade, stage 2 of the new Kingaroy Hospital, the Rockhampton Hospital Hybrid Theatre, a fit-out of the south block of the Townsville hospital to create an additional 33 beds, and the Gold Coast Mental Health Unit. Of course, we will deliver on a promise to build seven new satellite hospitals during this term.

One final project I would like to make particular mention of is the progression of the work happening at Longreach Hospital. The \$4.75 million electrical and mechanical upgrade has now commenced and is a part of the ongoing improvements to the hospital that have been happening over the past four years. This brings the total hospital investment to \$20.1 million and has delivered a new maternity unit, a new day surgery unit, new medical imaging—including the region's first CT scanner—an upgraded emergency department, new air conditioning and extensive upgrades to the medical gases systems. This incredible investment will benefit Central West residents for years to come. These projects will make a real difference in the lives of Queenslanders across the state. I look forward to updating the House throughout 2021.