




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 27 May 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Coronavirus, Victoria; Health Infrastructure

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.50 am): Further to the Premier's comments, I remind Queenslanders that as of 1 am this morning everyone coming from Victoria into Queensland will need a border pass. Anyone who has been in Victoria over the past two weeks is asked to please check the website because there are now well over 80 different venue exposure sites. We need to make sure anyone who has travelled to Victoria and is now in Queensland is checking those sites and, if they have been to those sites, following the health advice about quarantining and getting tested.

The Palaszczuk government's record \$21.8 billion health budget is delivering high-quality care throughout the state and a world-leading pandemic response that is saving lives. It is also delivering new and improved infrastructure—more than just bricks and mortar; rather, the state-of-the-art hospitals and healthcare facilities of the future. This financial year we are investing more than \$1.6 billion in 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. This is all part of Queensland's plan for economic recovery, which is delivering crucial health services and infrastructure along with the jobs and economic opportunities that come with them.

This investment is delivering outstanding results. I have seen firsthand some of the great projects already delivered and taking shape, like the brand new \$20 million Blackall Hospital I officially opened in November. This 10-bed facility includes two emergency department bays and two short-stay beds together with the associated general practice to provide coordinated and integrated health care for the community. Last month I visited Thursday Island Hospital with the member for Cook, where a \$46 million redevelopment is underway, and Mossman Hospital, where a \$10.1 million upgrade is nearing completion. Earlier this year with Minister Scanlon I also turned the first sod on a new \$6.1 million mental health crisis stabilisation facility on the Gold Coast. The Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service will be one of the first health services in the country to introduce this type of facility which will provide support to people experiencing an acute mental health crisis and offer an alternative to the emergency department.

Another exciting project in the pipeline is the Ipswich Health Precinct. We are one step closer with this project following the \$20.65 million purchase of four Ipswich City Council buildings and land close to the Ipswich Hospital. This important purchase will enable the Ipswich Hospital to expand and cater for future demand through a master planned precinct, improving access to top-quality health care closer to home for the rapidly growing West Moreton region. In my own electorate we have committed to delivering an extra \$6 million to progress planning for a major upgrade of the Redcliffe Hospital. Our health infrastructure pipeline is firing on all cylinders and it is Queenslanders who will reap the benefits in the years to come.