




Speech By
Adrian Tantari

MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY

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ADJOURNMENT

Hervey Bay Electorate, Budget

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (7.16 pm): I rise to speak about some of the many wins for the Hervey Bay electorate recently announced in the Palaszczuk Labor government's budget. I seek the indulgence of the House to speak on this given that I was not available during the budget session because I had COVID. The projects and services being funded are too numerous to mention in this short speech, so I will highlight just a few of the headline projects coming from the budget.

Hervey Bay Hospital is to undergo a major \$40 million expansion thanks to the latest investment of the Palaszczuk government. This funding will support improvements and fit-outs in the emergency department, medical inpatient ward and intensive care unit. The expansion will deliver 35 inpatient beds including 10 ICU beds plus a new rooftop helipad. This expansion is a part of the excellent Health and Hospitals Plan that is at the forefront of the Palaszczuk government's detailed budget for hospital and health facilities. While improving health care for Hervey Bay residents, the project will also create a further 100 local jobs, supporting our local community.

This work further complements the ever expanding suite of health facilities recently delivered by the Palaszczuk government in Hervey Bay. This includes a \$39 million mental health unit currently under construction, the \$44.6 million accident and emergency upgrade delivered in 2019 and the Urraween Ambulance Station delivered in 2021.

I am advised that the work on the new expansion is set to start in 2023 and locals can expect to welcome the completion of the new Hervey Bay Hospital expansion in 2024 and not by the misquoted, unfactual, exaggerated timeline spouted recently down a camera lens from Brisbane by the opposition health spokesperson—again, more mistruths and misinformation.

Our schools will be getting a boost, with the Urangan Point State School receiving a total of \$5.8 million towards their hall and the Urangan State High School will be receiving funds towards their \$10.7 million hall.

Other great announcements include funding towards the commencement of a new Hervey Bay fire station. With Hervey Bay continuing to grow, I have worked hard to secure the commitment for this new state-of-the-art fire station to protect and keep the people of Hervey Bay safe for decades to come.

Also, the budget commits \$14 million towards a new police station. This is a huge win for our community. When this new station comes online, Hervey Bay will have some of the newest multistream facilities available to help our hardworking police officers keep our community safe.

Community safety is a priority for our local community and, with the support of the Palaszczuk Labor government, we are committed to excellence in policing throughout our region. I want to thank the Minister for Police and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services for listening and acting to bring forward these two new stations for the people of Hervey Bay.

With our strong economic recovery, we are creating hundreds of local jobs, we will build our new police and fire stations, upgrade our major roads, build our new school classrooms and halls, and enhance our local TAFE. With these new facilities comes jobs for our tradies, apprentices, teachers, paramedics, police officers, nurses and doctors. These are only some of the highlights of another great Palaszczuk Labor government budget for Hervey Bay with more to come.