



Speech By  
**Christopher Whiting**


**MEMBER FOR BANCROFT**

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**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT**

**Caboolture Hospital**

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.22 pm): I stand today to talk up the Caboolture Hospital—not talk it down, like the LNP does. Our local hospital is full of workers from our local community who work incredibly hard. It is a busy hospital, but I hear many stories from people who say how their lives were saved by our local hospital and our local hospital workers. We on this side of the House are backing our hospital workers and making this hospital even better.

We are undertaking a \$400 million rebuild of Caboolture Hospital—\$350 million for those facilities and \$50 million for a new multistorey car park. This expansion will deliver 130 additional beds at the Caboolture Hospital and will see a doubling of the size of the emergency department. The hospital will have expanded operating theatres, palliative care, neonatal facilities, geriatric evaluation, intensive care and cardiac arrest care. Part of this build is a new five-storey clinical services building at the Caboolture Hospital which will be ready next year. A new six-storey multilevel car park will give 1,000 car-parking spaces to the hospital, making a total of 1,500 car-parking spaces.

We back our local hospital and our local hospital workers, in contrast to the LNP. All those opposite want to do is talk down our local hospital workers and our local hospitals. They come into town marketing the tragic stories of our locals for political advantage. Then they breeze out of town, looking for more tragedy somewhere else. The people whose stories they use are left feeling, once again, used by the LNP. This is an insult to our hardworking local health workers—our nurses, our administrators and our wardies—and an insult to the people who have had their lives saved by our local hospital staff.

I say to the member for Glass House: do not be a party to this. Do not stand next to your colleagues, who have come in from out of town, as they denigrate our local hospital workers. Show that you are a true local and that you back our hospital and do not attack it. Call out your colleagues if they attack the local hospital.

It is important to note that we on this side of the House back our local hospital workers; we do not sack them. What is more, we back all our local hospitals; we do not attack them.