




Speech By
James Martin

MEMBER FOR STRETTON

Record of Proceedings, 23 February 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Stretton Electorate, Infrastructure

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (7.28 pm): My electorate of Stretton is a fantastic place to be. We have great schools, businesses and communities but it is about to get even better with the excellent news that the Palaszczuk government is putting forward record investment in my local area with two major announcements. Firstly, we will build a brand new satellite hospital in Eight Mile Plains that will provide high-quality health care close to home and, most importantly, will take pressure off our major hospitals.

Secondly, yesterday locals were very happy to hear the news from the Premier and the Minister for Transport that we are putting over \$1 billion towards the Kuraby to Beenleigh rail upgrades. The project will include removing five level crossings including one in my electorate, the Kuraby level crossing on Beenleigh Road, which locals know so well. This will greatly improve traffic in my local area, allowing mums and dads to get to work, do the school drop-offs and pick-ups and get home much quicker.

Both of those announcements are great news for my community and will improve the quality of life for people who live in our growing area. They also reflect the Palaszczuk government's commitment to continued economic recovery because both of those projects will stimulate the economy and create jobs. The Palaszczuk government has always focused on creating good, secure jobs for Queenslanders. I note that the unemployment rate is down to its lowest level since December 2008, falling to 4.4 per cent.

The new hospital will be built on Levington Road, right next to the RACQ building, located halfway between the QEII Hospital and the Logan Hospital, and is part of an Australian-first initiative where seven new satellite hospitals will be built across high-growth areas in South-East Queensland—a \$265 million investment that will create over 700 jobs during construction and, importantly, provide ongoing, secure jobs for doctors, nurses and support staff right here in our local area. I am sure that there are a few health staff who live in Stretton already interested in transferring so that they can work closer to home. Like all members on this side of the House, I will always fight for high-quality, universal health care that is accessible to everyone. I believe that these high-quality, world-class healthcare facilities are vital for our community. I am proud to support quality health care for locals.

In news from yesterday, the second major investment in our local area is the removal of the Kuraby level crossing on Beenleigh Road. This has been included in the \$1.1 billion commitment from the state government. I join with the Premier and Minister for Transport in calling on the federal government to match our funding commitment to ensure we can deliver this important project for the people of Queensland. I note that Infrastructure Australia has listed improvements for the Gold Coast rail line between Kuraby and Beenleigh on its infrastructure priority list since March 2018. I very much look forward to seeing these positive investments in our community. The Stretton electorate is a fantastic place to live.