




Speech By
James Martin

MEMBER FOR STRETTON

Record of Proceedings, 1 December 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Stretton Electorate

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (6.22 pm): It has been another big year in the Stretton electorate. Our community has had a huge win in this year's Queensland budget with funding for the new satellite hospital in Eight Mile Plains. This new facility will be a place locals can go to be treated for minor illnesses and injuries and also provide important services like dialysis, radiation therapy and even chemo. It will take pressure off our major hospitals and allow locals to access better health care closer to home. It is located perfectly halfway between the QEII Hospital and the Logan Hospital, right next to the RACQ building on Levington Road. I am thrilled to say that construction work is well underway on the site. I recently attended the sod turning ceremony with the health minister, the minister for public works and also my colleagues the member for Toohey and the member for Mansfield. Each of our communities will see a massive benefit from the new satellite hospital and I look forward to seeing construction of the facility progressing. There will be over 100 jobs during the construction phase and plenty of ongoing local secure jobs for nurses, doctors and health staff when it opens. I know there are already a large number of healthcare workers who are keen on the opportunity to work closer to home.

Locals in my area are also very excited about the removal of the Kuraby level crossing. I fought for this with my community and I am thrilled we were able to secure a commitment to deliver it. The level crossing removal and upgrade to Kuraby station will be great for both public transport users and also for the mums and dads who do the school pick-ups and drop-offs at Kuraby State School. It will allow the expansion of the rail network to make it easier for people to get to work.

I am also pleased to report that upgrades on the Beaudesert Road and Illaweena Street intersection are progressing well. The Stretton community is a growing community and road upgrades have become necessary to ensure that people can get where they are going quicker, easier and more safely. This is certainly the case for Stretton Gardens Retirement Estate residents and Stretton State College students, who received brand new bus stops this year. Now there are more public transport options for our young students and senior residents. It means that senior residents from Stretton Gardens do not have to walk 800 metres uphill; they get a bus directly out the front of their facility. I know they are very happy about this.

This year we also delivered on our commitments to air-condition every classroom in every state school and deliver funding for an additional 2,200 hospital beds and announced a record \$1.6 billion funding for mental health services over five years. We have also established a new \$2 billion Housing Investment Fund to deliver more affordable housing for Queenslanders. That comes on top of a record spend in public housing. I am proud to be part of a government that is delivering for Queenslanders and I look forward to our continued progress in 2023. I would like to wish all residents of Stretton a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

