



Speech By  
**Laura Gerber**


**MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN**

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Record of Proceedings, 8 November 2022

**MOTION**

**Satellite Hospitals**

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (7.11 pm): My community has been deliberately deceived by this state Labor government. During the state election campaign in 2020, the Palaszczuk Labor government unequivocally promised my community a satellite hospital. My community thought they were getting a hospital, and this is exactly what the state government intended. The promise was a blatant and shameless vote grab in order to hold onto power and win the seat of Currumbin.

When Sunny Hart walked into a polling booth in October 2020, she asked the question: 'What is a satellite hospital?' Sunny took to social media and said, 'A Labor person said it was a new hospital.' Susie Kay Biber was looking forward to this much needed health infrastructure and said: 'A good and needed hospital'. Neal went onto say: 'A terrific idea. It will take strain off our hospitals and help people in our community stay in it and get much needed hospital care.'

A hospital is what we needed. It is what my community expected but it is not what we are getting. We know there will be no operating theatre. We know there will be no overnight beds. We know there will be no ED. My community is devastated and, quite frankly, they are angry. They are angry they have been deceived and they are angry they are not getting a hospital. Lorraine from Currumbin Waters told me: 'These will merely be glorified clinics.' Lynden from Tugun told me: 'Definitely can't define it as a hospital, if it's lacking three core elements—not good enough.' Jolene from Tugun emailed me to say: 'I am disappointed to hear that the site at 57 Boyd Street Tugun will be used as a health clinic, and not a hospital as previously promised.' Pauline from Tugun also emailed me saying, 'What about the pregnant women? We'd like to see the services at the health clinic now deliver for pregnant women.'

The Palaszczuk Labor government, knowingly and deliberately, called this facility a 'satellite hospital' in an attempt to deceive our community and make people believe that this facility would reduce pressure on our hospitals and deliver services that it is not going to deliver. This deception was so calculated and so politically driven that Palaszczuk government MPs were unequivocally promising a hospital. They were not even promising a satellite hospital; they were promising a hospital. Yes, I am talking about the member for Pumicestone. It is utterly despicable. It is everything that people hate about politics: using deception, untruths and trickery to win a vote and hold onto power.

Not only has this government tried to deceive our community, but it looks like these facilities will not even be delivered on time or on budget. The Palaszczuk Labor government promised that they would be delivered in May next year. That is looking wholly unlikely right now. My community desperately needs an emergency hospital service. We know that the Gold Coast University Hospital is at capacity. Ambulance ramping is at 47 per cent, and Robina is not far behind at 46 per cent. Some 30 per cent of the Tweed Hospital's emergency admissions come from the Gold Coast. That equates to about 12,200 people from my electorate who go to the Tweed ED. When the Tweed ED shuts down next year, where will all of those people go?

Think about this: it is mid-2023, it is dinnertime and you are a Tugun local. Your child goes into anaphylactic shock. Normally you would travel 10 minutes down the road to the Tweed ED, but it is closed. In your panic you go to the Tugun satellite hospital, but it is closed because it is night-time and it is not a 24-hour hospital because it is not a real hospital. I am afraid that as a result of this state government's deception we might experience a tragedy at the Tugun satellite hospital. It is not acceptable, and I will not stand for it.

Even senior health officials know that this is wrong. They have been lobbying for these health clinics not to be called hospitals. Queenslanders and senior health staff know the risk to public safety of this state government's deception. We need an emergency department on the southern Gold Coast. We need a hospital that has overnight beds. We need a hospital that is open 24 hours. We need a hospital with an ED. But we are not getting any of that. Instead, we are getting lies—I withdraw that, Madam Deputy Speaker—deception and untruths from this state Labor government and it is unacceptable.

*(Time expired)*