



Speech By  
**Ros Bates**


**MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA**

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## **PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT**

### **Gold Coast, Hospitals**

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.06 pm): Here we go again: another day, another health crisis headline—another chapter in this sad and sorry saga. This one hits close to home for me because it affects my part of the world. A headline from today's *Gold Coast Bulletin* reads 'Coomera Hospital: Bombshell delay for \$1.3bn mega project'. Imagine being a resident of the northern Gold Coast and reading that headline. You would be absolutely devastated—and rightly so—because today we have learned that the entire hospital being promised will not be delivered until 2040. 'Way off in the never-never' is a term that gets thrown around from time to time in this place, but this takes the cake. The entire facility will not be completed until 2040—18 years away. It means 800 beds in 18 years, with only 400 of them in the public system. That is not one election away, not two elections away, not three elections away or even four away. The state government are telling Queenslanders that it could take five state elections before the Coomera hospital precinct is completely finished. That is a slap in the face to the residents of the northern Gold Coast.

I pay tribute to the member for Coomera, who has long advocated for this project. He has fought tooth and nail for it for years now. He will tell you how aggrieved his constituency will be with this news, and I tell you who else will be aggrieved: my colleagues on the front line at the Robina and Gold Coast university hospitals. Those hospitals are already bursting at the seams. When they learn there will be no respite for them for 18 years, they will be shattered. I have walked in their shoes. I have seen how tough they are doing it. We hear you, we respect you and we know that you deserve better.

The Palaszczuk government's failure to plan and properly resource hospitals created the Queensland health crisis—that is now a well-established fact—and now they are trying to sell a solution to a problem of their own making which is 18 years away. The beds we need today are 18 years away. I pose the question to Queenslanders: how old will you be in 2040? I pose the same question to members in this chamber: how old will they be? Should we be surprised? No. This follows the government's form, and it is a pretty pathetic form line.

Remember the hospitals that those opposite promised at the last election? Yes? Well, they are not hospitals—no beds, no ED, not even 24 hours, so not hospitals. Guess what! Those seven fake hospitals are running late and running over budget, so how on this good earth can we trust those opposite to build a real hospital on time? Maybe they can, but just give them 18 years to do it. However, you can guarantee that it will not be delivered on budget. Queenslanders are suffering through this health crisis. Enough is enough. Queenslanders deserve so much better than this.