




Speech By
Ali King

MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

Record of Proceedings, 30 March 2023

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Bribie Island Satellite Hospital

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (2.28 pm): Having more free public health care closer to home is crucial for people in Pumicestone so our satellite hospitals are just what the doctor ordered for our community. I recently toured the Caboolture satellite hospital, which is a few months ahead of my one on Bribie, and I was so impressed. Bribie residents will be delighted to have an innovative satellite hospital in the heart of our community, bringing locals free public health care closer to home. Whether you have a chronic illness, whether you need renal dialysis regularly, whether you need an outpatient mental health appointment—that I advocated to be included so strongly—or other hospital care, our local satellite hospital will be there for you.

With fewer and fewer GPs in our area offering bulk-billing, having a minor accident and illness centre open until late at night will be a support to people who find themselves struggling to afford the cost of a doctor's appointment.

We are building seven satellite hospitals across South-East Queensland and we are investing in the \$400 million redevelopment of Caboolture Hospital that will see it doubled in size, adding a whole new list of services and 130 beds. We are doing all of that because our government is determined to do what matters for Queenslanders.

However, Queenslanders are asking themselves if the LNP is doing what matters and the answer is absolutely not. This week we have heard more about the LNP's infrastructure cuts list, where they are planning to 'prune back' billions of dollars. We know that the LNP have their secret infrastructure cuts list and we know our satellite hospitals are firmly on that list. It is no surprise because the Queensland LNP and our local LNP members in Pumicestone never miss a chance to talk down our satellite hospitals.

In 2020 when we announced our Bribie Island satellite hospital, local LNP figures attacked me about why we did not give the money to a private consortium to build a private hospital instead. That is what they wanted: privatisation. It is straight from the LNP's privatisation playbook where they back big business over the free public hospital care that our community needs most. They are always talking down and undermining our free public healthcare system in Queensland. They always want to back in cuts and privatisation.

Let us make no mistake: the flailing lame-duck LNP leader will 'prune back' our satellite hospitals. He will privatise them for a quick buck and direct the work towards his big business mates, just like Campbell Newman did. The LNP simply do not back government services. If Queenslanders elect them then they will cut services, sack health workers and privatise public health care to boost profits for their business mates. The LNP use slurs against women while talking about merit. There is one member in this House who is absolutely not here on merit and that is the LNP leader, the member for Broadwater. Our government is doing what matters on health, on housing, on cost-of-living support and on supporting our frontline workers and we will always do that.