



Speech By  
**Amanda Camm**


**MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 November 2023

## ADJOURNMENT

### **Mackay Regional Community Legal Centre; Mackay Base Hospital, Helipad**

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (6.07 pm): Last Friday I was very privileged to join with the Mackay Regional Community Legal Centre to celebrate 20 years of service to our local community. They started out on 24 July 2003 and originally operated out of the George Street neighbourhood hub. Tim Mulherin, the former member for Mackay, was integral in their establishment and was acknowledged on that day. They offer free legal advice and information nights, and they service over 1,200 clients across the Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday communities. I congratulate the leadership of Justine Sturgiss as the chair, their manager and principal solicitor, Jessica Brake, and all of the volunteer legal professionals who support an incredible local organisation.

I take the opportunity to mention something that is very close to my heart and that of my community in the greater Whitsunday region—that is, the announcement by Queensland Health of the decision to stop the landing of RACQ CQ Rescue at the helipad at the Mackay Base Hospital on an interim basis clause. An incident occurred over a week ago and a risk assessment was to be carried out. The CEO of RACQ CQ Rescue was contacted by the Mackay Airport because a representative from Queensland Health had contacted them to say, ‘Could you build an interim facility in two months because the helipad at the hospital is going to be out of service for the next three years due to hospital upgrades?’ As a region, we welcome the \$250 million in hospital upgrades, but I have been told by locals that that cost has now blown out by \$60 million. I have written to the minister to ask for her intervention and to understand what that cost blowout means. It should not be to the detriment of those who need emergency care and who need to be transported to our emergency department at Mackay Base Hospital.

The amount of \$5 million is contributed by local people who deduct their contribution from their salaries and by companies that rely upon that emergency service. It comes from organisations like Hamilton Island, mining and resource companies and G&S Engineering as well as mums and dads who make deductions from their salary to co-fund our emergency service, which was established in Mackay by locals for locals.

The Chief Medical Officer from Mackay Hospital and Health Service came out and said that five or 10 minutes or 20 minutes does not matter. I can tell honourable members that this decision will risk lives. I urge the minister to look deeply into this. Why is there a cost reduction in the capital program? Why is my emergency service at risk? I call on the member for Mackay to stop being silent for her community.