




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Prince Charles Hospital, Access

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (2.52 pm): I rise to discuss a really important issue for my community in Chermside and beyond, the Prince Charles Hospital, an icon on the north side. I regularly speak in this House about the government's significant investment in this hospital and our ongoing support for the hardworking staff right across the campus. Today I need to focus not so much on what goes on every day inside the hospital but, rather, on how staff, patients and visitors can enter and exit the campus.

What some people will not realise is that the campus of the Prince Charles Hospital is bordered on all four sides by council roads, including Hamilton Road to the north of the hospital. Tragically, about five years ago a nurse sadly crashed and died while trying to turn into Hamilton Road after finishing her shift. There has been significant community, government, union and other engagement about trying to provide safer options for staff, patients and their family and friends who utilise this wonderful facility. I would like to recognise the hard work of my predecessor, Dr Anthony Lynham, and his advocacy in this regard.

There developed a fairly united view across the hospital executive, workforce and the community that something had to be done. In particular, the instalment of a set of lights that would provide safe entry and exit to the hospital while better aligning the intersection with suburban side streets opposite the hospital was needed. Despite this, the Brisbane City Council has acted like a petulant child and refused to deliver—and that is being generous. Despite this being a council road, the Palaszczuk government tried to help and do the job of the council for them. We set aside a million dollars in the 2021-22 DTMR budget for this purpose.

The hospital executive and Metro North HHS were negotiating in good faith with council to look at realigning the internal roads on the hospital precinct to ensure a good and safe outcome for hospital users and the neighbouring residents alike. Having presented an option to the hospital that would accomplish this, the LNP BCC released a completely different intersection plan to the wider community, completely moving where the intersection would be.

Even more crucial, in a solution meant to provide safer entry and exit for hospital staff and patients, the LNP council's latest proposal is to spend millions of dollars of council and state money on an intersection that does not provide any access in or out of the hospital. I feel like I am in an episode of *Utopia* or *The Hollow Men*. Let me say it again. In trying to address safe entry and exit for hospital staff in the wake of a death, the LNP council's proposal is to create a T-intersection that excludes access in or out of the hospital. You cannot make this stuff up.

The LNP need to take responsibility for their council roads. They need to listen to staff, the community, the residents and the HHS and actually deliver real outcomes for our community. I and the Palaszczuk government will continue to fight for their rights to achieve just that.