




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Ripley Satellite Hospital

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (2.31 pm): Just over a week ago, on a beautiful Sunday morning, I was proud to welcome the Premier, the health minister and the members for Ipswich and Jordan to South Ripley in our local community for the opening of our state-of-the-art Ripley Satellite Hospital. We joined with over 300 locals who had come out to see their brand new health facility. There was absolutely overwhelming interest from our local community and I have to say that there was nothing but positive feedback and many smiling faces. The Premier and I had a wonderful time chatting to residents as they looked at our brand new health facility. It is only fitting that members of the very community that this satellite hospital will serve were the first to look at it before it welcomes its first patients on 30 August, next week.

It is incredible to consider that it was only in May of last year that I was standing with the then health minister where the satellite hospital is now and there was nothing but a vacant lot. Just over 12 months later, I am proud to say that we have delivered the Ripley Satellite Hospital. I acknowledge the contributions of both the Deputy Premier and the member for Redcliffe in making this a reality.

The Ripley Satellite Hospital will deliver free public health care seven days a week, from morning till night. It will take pressure off the emergency department at Ipswich Hospital while allowing locals to access world-class health care closer to home. Whether it is an ache, a sprain, a burn or a simple infection, our satellite hospital will help ensure more locals are treated in the community where they live and not in our hospital emergency rooms. Thirty staff have already been recruited for the facility—nurses, doctors, allied health and administration staff. This is what Labor delivers: jobs, new infrastructure and better services. That stands in stark contrast to the LNP.

When last in government, the LNP health cuts in West Moreton were savage and deep. They cut 124 health staff, including 92 nurses, as part of 4½ thousand sacked frontline health staff from across Queensland. Given the chance, they will do the same again. On 15 March this year the leader of the LNP published online and on social media the now infamous LNP cuts list and satellite hospitals were on it. Unsurprisingly, the post was quickly deleted. So much for honesty, openness and transparency, even in opposition. Apparently, the LNP are so addicted to cuts they immediately cut their own cut list.

Labor is proudly delivering an \$89 billion Big Build. In contrast, the LNP have billions in cuts that they are trying to hide. Labor is delivering record numbers of frontline health workers. On behalf of the LNP, in his budget reply speech their leader committed to delivering a 'contemporary Queensland Health workforce plan'. That has to be enough to send shivers down the spine of Queensland Health workers. In order to help with the cost of living, Labor are delivering more public health care through our satellite hospitals. In contrast, the LNP have delivered a campaign targeted at seniors to subtly solicit political donations through their LNP 'pressure relief' fund. That is an absolute shame.

When the LNP talk about cost blowouts, pruning or debt reduction plans, they are talking about cuts. To the LNP these are just numbers on a spreadsheet to be balanced. What the LNP are really talking about is sacking workers, selling or cutting infrastructure and cancelling services such as health care. We know that the LNP want to close or sell off our satellite hospitals. Our community knows that. South Ripley knows that. Our frontline health workers know that because they have been through it before and Queenslanders know it. Our Ripley Satellite Hospital is a game changer. It is a game changer for families in Ripley and it is a game changer for Ipswich, along with our massive expansion to the Ipswich Hospital and along with the extra 174 public beds that we are going to deliver at Springfield. We will deliver better services, not more LNP cuts.