




Speech By
Adrian Tantari

MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY

Record of Proceedings, 11 September 2024

ADJOURNMENT

Hervey Bay Electorate

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (9.09 pm): Over the last four years the Hervey Bay electorate has seen great outcomes in infrastructure, programs and services under this Labor government. Hervey Bay is booming. Growth in population is at two per cent per annum. Unemployment is around four per cent—it has more than halved in under four years. There is no better example than the massive job growth we have in the area. Infrastructure like new school halls and roads, as well as new hospital services and infrastructure, are underway. They are all committed and delivered by this Miles Labor government.

Last week, I was excited to stand alongside the Premier, the health minister and the member for Maryborough when we announced other great new health services for the Fraser Coast. A satellite hospital will be built to service the extra need created by our booming regional population. Further announcements were also made by the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Seniors in Hervey Bay, with an additional \$1 million per annum being funded to the Wide Bay health service palliative care, adding more resources to our local specialist team. Hervey Bay has been chosen as the base for the telestroke regional and remote service to provide real-time access to doctors and nurses who can assist patients online at a critical time. This is the Miles government acting to ensure that every Queenslanders can access better health care closer to home.

These new services are great wins for health care in Hervey Bay on top of the 35-bed ED expansion, the 22-bed mental health unit that opened this year, the new 24-bed ward underway, the new 550 space car park, as well as a new Medicare urgent care clinic and an increase in PTSS subsidies. All in all that is a total of an extra 81 new beds for the Hervey Bay community since I was elected in late 2020. In addition, there are more doctors, nurses and health professional positions than at any other time in the past.

All these announcements fly in the face of the misinformation being peddled by the LNP across the regions. All they do is talk down regional cities like Hervey Bay, peddle absolute mistruths about our hospital services and just plainly insult our regional hardworking hospital staff by calling them 'duds'. It is absolutely disgraceful.

We all know that the LNP stands for nothing but slick slogans. They think the Hervey Bay people are silly enough to have forgotten what they did to our regional health services when they were last in government when they sacked 345 health staff from the Wide Bay. I was there. I saw what happened when they tore through our health services and our health staff at our hospital. They also defunded dozens of NGOs that provided many local add-on services so that they could introduce their privatisation agenda—the one we still all know they have ready to go if they become the government at the end of October. That is what they are all about—privatisation.

More upgrades and new services have been delivered in the last four years since I was elected than in the whole 11 years and four terms the LNP government were in charge in Hervey Bay—which amounted to very little. The people of Hervey Bay will not ever forget what the LNP did to Hervey Bay the last time they were in government. The Labor government and I will always deliver to build a better Hervey Bay, whilst the LNP will only ever cut, sell and sack.

(Time expired)