




Speech By
Bryson Head

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Record of Proceedings, 19 March 2024

ADJOURNMENT

Calliope State School; Maternity Services

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (7.26 pm): Calliope State School is part of a fantastic community in a fantastic town. Recently I attended their leadership ceremony and presented the new school captains with their badges. As always, it was an absolute pleasure.

This great school has one major issue that is the bugbear of the entire community. The pick-up and drop-off area is along a major highway and is a complete shemozzle in peak times. Alongside local parents, we have launched a petition calling on this to be fixed with the utmost priority. Parents, community members, local councillors and the school have all spent many hours trying to see this situation fixed, with no success to date.

This highway is a major route for heavy vehicles, with many trucks transporting dangerous goods such as ammonium nitrate along this route, only exacerbating the risk to their 500 students and the wider community. I encourage everyone to get behind this petition and support one of our great local communities. In turn, I call on the government to follow through on this, listen to the already more than 300 people who have signed this petition and stump up to fix this problem.

Maternity services are critical for prosperous communities. Instead of increasing maternity services, this tired, old, chaotic Labor government continues to close them across rural Queensland. Last sitting week I called on the minister to apologise to local mother Chloe who, due to the Gladstone maternity bypass, gave birth on the side of the Bruce Highway. Has the minister apologised? No. The government previously claimed that no babies were born on the roadside due to this maternity bypass. Try telling this to Chloe.

Instead of fronting up to have the tough conversations, the Minister for Health turned up last week in Rockhampton for yet another photo opportunity, meanwhile the Biloela maternity ward remains on bypass. Today it has now been on bypass for a total of 572 days. Staff, doctors and nurses are suffering. Staff, doctors and nurses are all leaving in their droves, and you cannot blame them. The roof at the Biloela Hospital even fell in the other day such is the chaos and crisis under this Labor government.

The community is suffering. The community of Biloela and the staff of the Biloela hospital are victims under the Labor health crisis. Instead of fronting up to the community of Biloela to have a tough conversation, the Minister for Health turns up for yet another photo opportunity. It is time for the minister to front up and start having some tough conversations, rather than turning around and splashing cash and cutting ribbons.

It is clear that Queensland is in the grip of a health crisis. Only the LNP has the right priorities for Queensland's future. The LNP will deliver easier access to health services.