




Speech By
Bryson Head

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Record of Proceedings, 16 April 2024

ADJOURNMENT

Bruce Highway; Chinchilla Hospital, Maternity Services

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (7.10 pm): The deadliest stretch of the Bruce Highway is in the electorate of Callide at Kolonga north of Gin Gin. I table a chart showing evidence of this from TMR's own data.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, depicting a graph titled 'Bruce Highway Fatal Crashes, By location, 2015-2024' [582](#).

Not only have there been far too many fatalities, there have also been many serious crashes and injuries. You would think the deadliest and most dangerous stretch of the Bruce Highway would receive a lot of attention and an increase in road safety initiatives—not under the Miles Labor government. Labor bulldozed the Gin Gin Driver Reviver only half an hour up the road from this deadly stretch of our most significant highway, ripping it out from under the passionate community and volunteers who fundraised to build the shed in the first place. Last year I tabled a petition on this with over 700 signatures, and this call from the community fell on deaf ears. The Labor government claimed it would cost \$400,000 to bring the driver reviver up to standard. I call this absolute garbage. It was a shed, and a small one. I do not know what planet the government is living on to get to this figure. Further, they did not go to the community to work through a solution—they tore the shed down. I call on the government to rebuild the Gin Gin Driver Reviver immediately. If it does not, it is further evidence that Labor does not care about the bush.

Tonight, in response to questions about the maternity services at the new Chinchilla Hospital, minister Shannon Fentiman told the Seven Network that the new hospital is expected to maintain its existing service level of 10 beds and equivalent spaces and that further services will resume when they have appropriate staff. Once again, the minister has failed to place on record that the Miles Labor government backs maternity services in Chinchilla and in the bush. This 7News revelation follows a question on notice asked of the Minister for Health and Minister for Women about the facilities and maternity services at the new Chinchilla Hospital that will be built next year following a hard-fought local campaign. Labor has continuously said that they are returning maternity services to Chinchilla after they placed them on temporary bypass in 2019, nearly 2,000 days ago, yet they have failed to commit to restoring maternity services once again. Now they have doubled down.

This is a disgraceful admission from a government that has given up on women in the bush. Premier Miles closed the Chinchilla maternity unit as health minister, now Premier Miles has turned his back on pregnant women in the bush and is failing to restore maternity services for a community that always had them before Labor came along. It is clear that Premier Miles and Labor have given up on health, given up on local maternity services and, frankly, given up on women. Commit to restoring maternity services at the new Chinchilla Hospital. Further, today marks 600 days since the Biloela maternity ward bypass. Show Labor the door in 2024.

(Time expired)