



Speech By  
**Jennifer Howard**


**MEMBER FOR IPSWICH**

---

Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2024

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Ripley Valley**

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (2.52 pm): I am proud of the enormous investment that Queensland Labor are putting into the growing Ripley Valley in Ipswich. The Ripley Valley is expected to see the largest growth of any SA2 in Queensland, with up to 120,000 people moving there by 2046. To put that into context, that is around half the current population of Ipswich.

In the past four years, our government has built two new primary schools and a high school in the Ripley Valley. We are planning to build more schools over the next 20 years as more families move to the area. Labor governments are committed to kids' education and we are building new and, can I say, really fabulous schools where they are needed most.

I cannot talk about schools in Ripley without mentioning our fabulous Minister for State Development and our fabulous Minister for Education, with whom the member for Bundamba and I have worked closely on a project to build a school at Scott's Farm. Scott's Farm is the last remaining bit of wildlife space in the Ripley area. It has been in the Scott family since 1892. A school was allocated to be built there in around 2040. Obviously, the family were very upset and the entire community were very upset at the thought of losing that valuable piece of land and a lot of history. After working with the ministers involved and the member for Bundamba, we were able to have that decision investigated and overturned by the Department of Education. It was a great win for that part of the world.

We are also committed to quality health care in the growing regions. That is why we built the new Ripley Satellite Hospital. Since it opened 12 months ago, Ripley Satellite Hospital's Minor Injury and Illness Clinic has seen around 25,000 patients. Importantly, those patients are being diverted away from our emergency department. Since the opening of the Ripley Satellite Hospital, the Ipswich Hospital ED has seen the number of category 4 and category 5 presentations drop by 24 per cent and 35 per cent respectively. The Ripley Satellite Hospital is already expanding with a new subacute care facility currently under construction. Once opened, it will provide 90 new beds; a new multistorey car park; and rehabilitation, geriatric, palliative and interim care specialist services. A new ambulance station has already been built and is open. The satellite hospital and ambulance station mean that people can access quality health care closer to home, which is what it is all about.

Another great initiative that we recently announced is the new \$25 million police station, which was a commitment made at the last election. That project is now well and truly underway. We are looking forward to seeing that come to fruition. It will replace the Yamanto Police Station. It is going to have all of the equipment that modern policing needs.

One thing that Ripley residents often raise with me is the terrible road infrastructure in the old part of Ripley. Recently we announced an additional \$25 million from catalyst funding to go with the council funding to upgrade that.