



Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 20 March 2024

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Further Answer to Question, Logan Hospital

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (11.07 am): In relation to questions today asked by the opposition relating to Logan Hospital, I can confirm and am advised that this internal entry was part of a normal ongoing process of measuring and mitigating potential risk at Queensland hospitals. It is a standard process to ensure our hospitals are as safe as possible. For the benefit of the House, I think it is important to clarify a few points.

This risk entry was first identified not in 2022 but in early 2016. Once again, the Leader of the Opposition and the LNP are being slippery with the truth. The entry was first entered in March 2016—not too long after the brutal sackings of frontline staff from the LNP Newman government, including 299 nurses who lost their jobs at Logan Hospital. The LNP today are now referencing updates to this internal risk entry from early 2022—at the height of Queensland battling the COVID-19 pandemic and floods across Logan. This is the smoking gun that the LNP are spinning to Queenslanders—that our hospitals were under pressure at the time of the pandemic. I can also confirm that since 2022 the risk has been downgraded. This is because of the hard work of our clinicians and the investments made by the Labor government. I am going to say that again: it is because of the hard work of our clinicians and the investment of this Labor government to address issues identified in this entry.

Yes, there are pressures on our hospital system, including Logan Hospital. As I have said time and time again, we have record presentations to our emergency departments. Two of the biggest contributing factors to these pressures, as noted by staff, are the skyrocketing demand and the lack of access to primary care. Since this internal entry in the Logan Hospital system in early 2022, we have put on additional nurses in waiting rooms to provide more care for incoming presentations; we have put on ED flow commanders and a medical commander role, an idea that came straight from our hardworking doctors and nurses; and we are bringing online hundreds more hospital beds. Our \$1 billion expansion of Logan Hospital is bringing online 318 new beds at the Logan Hospital. We have also refurbished the maternity service with state-of-the-art maternity suites. We are delivering new operating theatres, new endoscopy suites, a new cardiac catheter lab and a new pharmacy. Since 2022, Metro South has hired over 920 additional frontline doctors, nurses, midwives and allied health professionals. That is what investing in our health system looks like.

Once again, the LNP, and in particular the Leader of the Opposition, have proven themselves to be slippery with the truth and short on detail. This is entirely misleading, Mr Speaker, and I will be writing to you about this matter.