




Speech By
Bryson Head

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Record of Proceedings, 14 March 2025

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Chinchilla Hospital

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (2.35 pm): Today I am going to talk about the Chinchilla Hospital upgrade. As many members may know, I have spent a lot of time in this House talking about rural health, especially when it comes to rural maternity failures from the former Labor government and the former minister for women, who failed the women in the bush and failed the women in my communities with the never-ending bypasses, which were really closures, of maternity services. Importantly, the Chinchilla community has been wondering what is happening with the Chinchilla Hospital upgrade. I am happy to stand in the House today—I have been working with the minister and the minister's office on many health projects across Callide including this one—and place on the record what is happening with this important project.

The Chinchilla Hospital is an incredibly important facility in my home town and what is the largest town in the electorate of Callide. As they did with many rural towns, Labor also turned their back on this one. Former minister Fentiman was under pressure because of cuts to local services, such as the maternity services in rural and regional Queensland, and made what we have now uncovered to be a completely hollow promise with regard to the Chinchilla Hospital. This was done to try to cover up the excessive amount of chaos and crisis we were seeing from the Labor government.

Even though Labor promised a new hospital upgrade a full year ago, with concept planning phases to have commenced at the same time, come the election and nearly a year on these concept plans had not been finished. Of course, construction was also meant to have started by now. We walked in and asked some questions as to what was happening. We also sought an independent review of the Capacity Expansion Program and the Sustaining Capital Program, the latter of which inappropriately funded projects like the Chinchilla Hospital project. We have since been determining how we can save these programs that were simply being failed by Labor.

Ultimately, you cannot build a project if there is no money for it. We have found out that, while construction was meant to start, Labor left no money in the budget for it. That is what we inherited for the community of Chinchilla. Nonetheless, we have since completed the concept design because the LNP are getting on with the job of delivering health facility upgrades for Queenslanders. The next step will be to undertake schematic design, procurement planning and community consultation because, ultimately, we listen to Queenslanders and take them on the journey with us. We will properly consult with the community to inform the project's delivery.

To the Chinchilla community I say: we will work with you and we will deliver the Chinchilla Hospital upgrade. At this stage the redevelopment is planned to be completed sometime in 2026. I am looking forward to continuing to work with the minister to complete this important hospital upgrade.