



Speech By **Bryson Head**

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Record of Proceedings, 30 October 2025

PRIVATE MEMBER STATEMENT

Callide Electorate

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (2.15 pm): We have a report of a 17-year-old paddleboard rider missing at Callide Dam since late yesterday afternoon. Our emergency services are working hard to find the individual. Sunwater and our wider Biloela community are also leaning in to assist in these efforts. My thoughts and prayers go out to the teenager's family and wider community that he is returned safely. The dam remains closed until further notice. I ask anyone who has to be in the area to please follow all instructions from emergency services personnel until further notice.

Women deserve the very best of health services. They deserve them in Callide as well. Since I have been elected I have been fighting hard to see more health services closer to home for our communities, including maternity services—maternity services that were closed by the Palaszczuk and Miles Labor governments. They would not admit they were closed, but they were placed on bypass for many years. When you place something on bypass for many years, that means you have closed that facility. We have committed to reopening maternity services in Biloela. There is a lot of great work happening to reinstate those services.

Importantly, when we reinstate maternity services we want to make sure they are sustainable and that the care provided is safe. That is what we are working through. We inherited a decade of decline that saw those services closed, but we remain committed to getting them back online. I say to the Chinchilla community that, while we have not yet committed to reopening them there, I will keep fighting to make sure we get those opened in the long term, because it is an incredibly important service to women across rural Queensland—women I represent. They deserve these services in those communities, and I will continue to stand up until such time as we have them.

I have spoken in this House previously about studying at QUT in the science faculty. Last sitting week I raised my concerns with the QUT cutting science faculty staff, including academic staff, from the university. I have written to the vice-chancellor of QUT and to date I have not received a response. Some 2,500 people have signed a petition against those proposed cuts, and I fully support them in their endeavours to get this decision reversed. I hope the QUT listens to what those 2,500 individuals have said and that they will not allow this to happen. I hope the vice-chancellor responds soon, because there are a lot of questions to be answered about decisions the university has made over the years that have led to their financial situation and likely led to this position that I dare say they still have plenty of time to reverse.