




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Redcliffe Hospital, Expansion

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.20 pm): Today we are talking about another broken promise from the LNP: that they will not deliver those 2,200 hospital beds by 2028 that they originally promised. We do not know what they will build, when they will build it or how many beds will be included. We do not know what they will do. All we know is that the minister said they are going to take their time. It will take years. We know that the LNP health cuts mean we will be years behind in our health infrastructure.

I do want to point out that the day they announced the new Olympic stadium and aquatic centre was the same day that the last piling rig was pulled off the site at Redcliffe Hospital—that very day—leaving behind 200 to 300 tonnes of steel frames for those piles. They also left behind \$200,000 worth of PVC pipe from the electrical contractors. That is millions of dollars worth of equipment left behind.

I also saw the redundancy letters sent to those workers on the day that work stopped at that hospital. For some of those workers it was their last job before they finished their career and they wanted to spend it working in their community, proud to be working on their local hospital. The abandoned Redcliffe Hospital expansion is the face of the LNP cuts to health in Queensland.

The fact is the LNP never intended to build that hospital as envisaged by my community, but they needed an excuse. The biggest excuse they could land on for stopping the Redcliffe Hospital expansion is the scar tree. This is an urban myth being perpetrated with great glee by the LNP. The tree has been at the centre of a building site at Redcliffe Hospital for years. Queensland Health managed to build a multistorey car park next door to that tree, working around it. We managed to expand and rebuild the Redcliffe emergency department by working around it. This tree has been on a construction site for years. We worked around it and took care of that tree. Workers are telling me that they could easily finish stage 1 without interfering with that tree.

Let me repeat: this excuse of the scar tree is an urban myth being perpetrated by the LNP to justify their cuts and I urge people to go and have a look at this massive abandoned building site with one tree on its edge. Remember this: when Labor was in government, the site was bustling and the hospital was going ahead. Once the LNP got in, it was abandoned; it is a whistling, abandoned building site.