




Speech By
David Lee

MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY

Record of Proceedings, 22 May 2025

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Hervey Bay Electorate, Health Care

 **Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (2.53 pm): I rise to speak about the dire healthcare needs of my Hervey Bay community. After a decade of Labor's maladministration and systemic failures, we need a well-considered and sustainable service and master plan to address the healthcare needs of my community. I will continue to resolutely and persuasively advocate for a clinical services capability framework that meets the existing and future needs of Hervey Bay. Thankfully, I am part of the Crisafulli government, which is taking a focused, calm and methodical approach to planning for our long-term healthcare needs.

Hervey Bay is growing rapidly and this is placing sustained pressure on our Hervey Bay Hospital infrastructure. Thirty-one per cent of our population is aged 65 and over, and we have the highest rates of chronic disease—as a total proportion of the Fraser Coast population—in Australia, including cardiovascular disease.

For many years the Hervey Bay Hospital's emergency building had an empty level 2 shell which allegedly accommodated the local pigeon population. Nevertheless, the former Labor member for Hervey Bay desperately peddled the misleading campaign that the retrofit of the level 2 shell had been delivered. Never let the truth get in the way of a good story. On 3 April 2025 I asked a question without notice of the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services in relation to the delivery of health infrastructure at the Hervey Bay Hospital. The minister said—

The budget of the Hervey Bay Hospital—

this is for the fit-out of the level 2 shell—

more than doubled last year. Originally it was to be a \$40 million project, but early last year—in 2024—the tenders blew out to \$94 million with a 70-week delivery timeframe. Here is something those opposite will not tell you: they quietly shelved the project.

Thankfully, we delivered it. The Sangster review into Labor's capacity expansion program has highlighted how deeply flawed Labor's hospital plan was, including, but not limited to, billions and billions of dollars in cost blowouts. Labor's slurs and aspersions from 'coward's castle' on Mr Sangster's character and reputation do not in any way detract from Labor's systemic failures and reckless indifference to planning for the healthcare needs of Hervey Bay. Labor's cheap and shallow slogan, 'building a better Hervey Bay', was just that—another shoddy Labor slogan built on shifting sands. Thankfully, we have a hospital rescue plan to fix Labor's healthcare crisis. The Hervey Bay Hospital rescue plan is built on strong and enduring foundations that meet our community's needs.