




Speech By
Janelle Poole

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

Record of Proceedings, 30 April 2025

MOTION

Crisafulli LNP Government, Health System

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (6.18 pm): I rise to support the motion as amended by our Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. I commend and thank him for the work that he has put into the Crisafulli LNP government's Hospital Rescue Plan. Before I start, I would like to say that I cannot wait for the day that I, too, have a fat margin. On 24 April 2025, an article in the *Townsville Bulletin* was headed—

What was triumphantly described by Labor in 2022 as the 'biggest expansion program ever seen in a state budget' has been exposed as one of the state's biggest lies.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mundingburra, that is unparliamentary language. I ask you to withdraw.

Mrs POOLE: I withdraw—untruths. On 26 October, Queenslanders voted for a fresh start. They voted for easier access to health services and we will deliver a Hospital Rescue Plan. How did we get to the stage we are at now? The government commissioned an independent review into the program, led by an independent expert, Sam Sangster. Sam's health infrastructure credentials are unparalleled in Australia, having now led client-side planning and delivery of more than 135 hospitals, with a total project value in excess of \$28 billion. The review reveals Labor's negligence and failure of oversight in delivering the multibillion dollar hospital infrastructure program. Sangster stated—

In each case continuing with the currently scoped and programmed projects is an exercise in futility.

The review provides 42 recommendations to get the program back on track and to improve health infrastructure delivery more broadly.

The Crisafulli government is funding and delivering Labor's false promises. The Hospital Rescue Plan will deliver more than 2,600 new beds across the state, which is 400 more than Labor promised, across 14 major hospital projects. It is the largest ever investment in health infrastructure in Queensland. The plan sets out a credible path forward for delivering those projects to better meet local needs and create value-for-money outcomes.

What does that mean to the people of Townsville and the Townsville University Hospital? It highlights Labor's failure: a \$500 million cost blowout from \$530 million to over \$1 billion and a delay of at least two years. They ignored the advice and included only 70 per cent of clinical requirements. What does that mean? It means no pharmacy, it means no sterilising department and it means no link bridge between the existing hospital and the proposed expansion. What does that mean? It means you are going to have to put everything on a trolley, wheel it out, take it down in the lift, take it out through the car park, wheel it up the road—look out for that speed bump—go over the next speed bump and then into the next hospital. This is critical infrastructure that cannot be left out of a new build.

Queenslanders deserve a health system that they can rely on. Our health professionals do an exceptional job. We see that day in and day out. They deserve a better system so that they can continue to deliver the world-class health care that they wish to deliver. I commend the amended motion to the House.