




Speech By
Jennifer Howard

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

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ADJOURNMENT

Ipswich Electorate

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (9.05 pm): Over the past few weeks we have seen the LNP government proudly announce the opening of new health facilities in Ipswich: a residential rehabilitation and withdrawal service in Raceview and a brand new 90-bed specialised inpatient services facility at the Ripley Satellite Health Centre. Of course, these are important projects. Ipswich welcomes and deserves every single health service we can get. What the government will not tell you—what they hope you will not notice—is that these facilities were initiated, funded and largely delivered under Labor. These were not LNP ideas, they were not LNP priorities and they certainly were not LNP investments. These projects exist because of Labor. Labor governments take care of Ipswich.

Under Labor we saw the biggest investment in health in the history of our city, with new wards, more beds, expanded services, a new satellite health centre and a brand new ambulance station. It is also worth mentioning that Labor provided all of the planning and capital funding to make these centres possible, so when you see a government minister standing in front of cameras patting themselves on the back, just remember this: they are standing on foundations that Labor built—foundations built because we understood Ipswich's needs and we backed Ipswich with real money, real planning and real delivery. It is not just health.

Government members interjected.

Ms HOWARD: They do not like hearing the truth. This week we also saw the very first bus service connecting the Ipswich CBD directly to Springfield: the new 501 route, a service people have been crying out for for years. That service did not appear out of thin air. It did not happen because the LNP suddenly discovered public transport. It happened because Labor funded the Ipswich Mobility Study, which identified the need, created the plan and provided \$36.3 million to roll out new buses and new routes across the Ipswich LGA.

The current government is turning up at the finish line and pretending it ran the race. Ipswich knows better. We know who actually delivered record health investment. We know who built the rehab facility at Raceview and who funded the 90 new beds in South Ripley. We know who put the first ever Ipswich CBD to Springfield bus service on the map, and we know who actually listens to the community. It is not the LNP. If this government wants to take victory laps on projects it did not start, did not fund and did not deliver, that is its choice. Ipswich people deserve honesty. They deserve credit going where credit is due, and they deserve a government that shows up not just for the photo op but for the hard work beforehand. Labor has always done that for Ipswich. I have always done that for Ipswich and we always will.