



Speech By  
**Hon. Samuel O'Connor**


**MEMBER FOR BONNEY**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 May 2025

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Coomera Hospital**

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (9.15 pm): Last week the Crisafulli government released our *Hospital Rescue Plan*. I will not be tabling this copy because I borrowed it from the health minister. It is the biggest investment ever made into our health system. There was one project which will make a huge difference to my community, the Coomera Hospital.

The former Labor government completely botched this new hospital. Labor oversaw a billion dollar cost blowout, delays of more than six months and a plan that only had 400 beds instead of the 600 overnight beds identified in the original business case that our growing city needs. Labor was going to build this hospital without basic services like pathology, pharmacy or even an outpatient department. Incredibly, Labor started planning Coomera in 2016, which means they wasted almost a decade. The review also found there was no forward thinking around Robina. It was planning by press release without listening to the people who actually deliver health care.

The northern Gold Coast is one of the fastest growing regions in our state and it has been unacceptable to not have a hospital between Southport and Logan for so long. I am not excited about this new facility because it is coming to my electorate; I am excited because of what it will mean for GCUH, which I do proudly represent. Our plan also includes 70 new beds for Gold Coast University Hospital and a subacute expansion. Our local health workers there are stretched, overworked and under-resourced. Our new government is getting on with the job of delivering the new Coomera Hospital because our community cannot wait any longer than the decade they already have under Labor.

The new 600-bed hospital will include day surgery, maternity services, operating theatres and an ICU. It will have a multistorey car park and, importantly, be better connected to public transport through a revised master plan. All of this will help ease the pressure on GCUH, which has the busiest emergency department in the country. That stress is not fair on patients, and it is certainly not fair on the frontline staff trying to care for them.

I am privileged to represent thousands of health workers. According to the most recent ABS data, health care and social assistance is by far the largest employment sector in Bonney, making up around 14 per cent of workers in my electorate with around half of those directly working in hospitals. These are the people who care for our families, our kids, our parents and our grandparents, and it is time we gave them the facilities they need and deserve. That is exactly what we are delivering. We paused the CFMEU tax, Labor's so-called best practice principles, which were making it more expensive and meaning it took longer to build anything in our state. We are listening to clinicians, empowering local decision-making and planning properly for the future. Early works will continue on the site and we will make sure this project delivers not just for patients but for workers and our wider northern Gold Coast community.