



Speech By  
**Hon. Tim Nicholls**


**MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 29 April 2025

**MOTION**

**Call for Documents**

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (11.20 am): I move—

That this House—

calls on the Leader of the Opposition to approve by 5.00 pm on Wednesday 30 April 2025 the release of all cabinet and CBRC documents from the previous term of government, including all briefing notes, attachments, and any other related material concerning the Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan, including the capacity expansion program.

It has become evident in the last week that Labor are running from their history. They are running from their failures. It has been almost a week—six days—since I released the Sangster review and the Crisafulli LNP government's Hospital Rescue Plan. Remember, the Leader of the Opposition was wandering around Queensland like Chicken Little calling for these plans to be released, wanting to know about the Sangster review. I remember being in Cairns, in Townsville, at Redcliffe and at a number of other places and answering questions from journalists. They asked, 'When are you going to release the review?' And I said, 'Just you wait.' The member for Murrumba will regret making that call—boy, oh, boy, will he regret it!

The 150-page Sangster review that has been provided to the government details the litany of Labor failures. It was not just the member for Murrumba who failed; it was also the members for Woodridge and Waterford and the former member for Redcliffe. All those who sat around that cabinet table are complicit in the hoax that was Labor Party's failed capacity expansion program. Three of Labor's failed health ministers are still sitting on the other side and they are all running from the truth. They are running from scrutiny. That is why it is important that Queenslanders have confidence in the plan and know exactly where Labor went wrong. The program experienced an almost \$7 billion cost blowout and years of delay, leaving no project deliverable as announced.

What happened last week? Did any of the three former health ministers stand up at all? Not one of them did. They have been calling for the report to be released, so we obliged. We released the report.

**A government member:** It was on the news.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** It was on the news. It was everywhere.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** A very good point! I take that interjection. What did they do? They sent out the poor old member for Miller—the one that no-one actually wanted on the front bench in 2024, if you remember. They sent him out. What did the member for Miller claim? He said the projects were planned as well as they possibly could have been at the time. He left two words out—'by Labor'. That was it. Their plan only ever extended to getting headlines because it was rushed, panicked and a failure. On top of that, we also had the Auditor-General's report into the Sustaining Capital Program.

I will go through the questions that Queenslanders want to know the answers to, that the members and employees of Queensland Health want to know the answers to and that Labor is not standing up and answering. When was the former health minister aware none of the projects were on track? She got up today and asked the Treasurer a question about what he knew. If it is sauce for the goose it is sauce for the gander. Here is another question: when did then minister Fentiman know these projects were out of funds? Did she know it in July 2024 when she wrote to the then treasurer and the then premier seeking to move funds from the capacity expansion program to Sustaining Capital? When did they know about it? Did they know about it when they got the letter from the then health minister asking to move the funding around and telling them that there was insufficient funding to complete the capacity expansion program? Did they know in July last year that the program was going to cost \$17 billion, not the \$9.7 billion they had originally planned? Did they know that the project blowout times had extended?

Did they know that Toowoomba was going to be delayed two years? Did they know that Mackay was going to be delayed a year? Did they know that Redcliffe was going to be delayed three years, if memory serves me correctly? Did they know that Cairns would not be able to deliver the so-called surgical centre? Did they know that they had not even secured a site for the car park in Cairns? What did they know? When did they know it? Most importantly, why are they refusing to stand up, shoulder to shoulder, and front the people of Queensland with the documents in their hands and simply say, 'We were misled.' That is all they have to do. 'We weren't told about it. We didn't know about it. Here are all the documents. We'll release the cabinet documents, the HIQ documents and the briefing notes that show what happened.'

*(Time expired)*