




Speech By
Hon. Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 10 June 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Hospital Rescue Plan

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (10.01 am): This budget is about delivering for Queensland. It is the fresh start we promised. The Crisafulli LNP government will heal Labor's health crisis. The Hospital Rescue Plan is necessary to save the health system from a decade of mismanagement, chaos and crisis under Labor—chaos and crisis under Labor. From Currumbin to the cape, it is the largest ever investment in health infrastructure in Queensland and it will deliver more than 2,600 beds throughout the state. We are going to do the proper planning and proper budgeting for these projects and not make the same mistakes as Labor. Our plan is already delivering easier access to health services for Queenslanders, like the new modular theatre in Proserpine that opened just last month. The Hospital Rescue Plan—

Mr Bailey: The cuts plan.

Mr NICHOLLS: The Hospital Rescue Plan, member for Miller, sets out a clear path forwards to build three brand new hospitals in Coomera, Toowoomba and Bundaberg. I was recently in Bundaberg with the member for Burnett and I was in Toowoomba with the member for Toowoomba North. In both cities I announced that we would act on advice that operating dual campuses, as Labor had planned, was a significant risk and would have cost the HHSs hundreds of millions in additional operating costs each and every year—money that could not be spent on delivering health services to Queenslanders.

In Bundaberg, a new design that transfers all services and all beds to the new site will be progressed with at least 139 new overnight beds and level 5 services, including emergency and maternity. I was also at the site of the new Coomera Hospital with the member for Coomera. We are increasing the number of beds at Coomera to 600—600 is what the hospital and health service actually needed, not what Labor was preparing to deliver. We are delivering what the hospital and health service and the people of the northern Gold Coast need, not just what Labor thought they wanted.

As part of the plan there will be major expansions at 10 existing hospitals including—and the member for Redcliffe will love this—Redcliffe, Mackay and Townsville, as well as the Queensland Cancer Centre. Alongside the member for Redcliffe, I announced a new plan that meets the hospital and health service's needs, clinical needs and importantly the needs of the people on the peninsula. The new Redcliffe Hospital expansion will use the site to maximise service delivery; importantly ensure the safety of nurses, doctors and healthcare workers; and avoid a cultural artefact that was costing Queenslanders \$54,000 a day in delays.

We have removed unnecessary conditions like the BPICs—otherwise known as the CFMEU tax—and will work in partnership with industry to create better value for money outcomes across our contracts. We have already progressed procurement activities for key projects, with the request for offer for the new Townsville Hospital multistorey car park being released this week—700 car parks to be delivered—and the Redcliffe car park expansion expression of interest was released earlier this month.

Local tier 2 and 3 builders have been able to bid for these projects for the first time in years. They were locked out by Labor's BPIC conditions—locked out. Thanks to the relaxation of BPICs, Labor's CFMEU tax, and our response to the Sangster review recommendations, we will be delivering for the communities across the state. The Hospital Rescue Plan is an integral investment for the future health of Queenslanders and will ensure our communities can depend on their healthcare system, a healthcare system being delivered by the Crisafulli LNP government.