Labor’s $160m Gold Coast health plan

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A re-elected Palaszczuk Labor Government will invest $160 million in new and expanded hospitals to cater for the health needs of a growing Gold Coast.

The plan includes a new hospital and health precinct for the northern Gold Coast region, with an identified preferred site at Coomera, on top of an already announced $111.3 million expansion for the Gold Coast University Hospital and a satellite hospital for the southern suburbs.

It will also invest $5.7 million to deliver a second Computed Tomography (CT) scanner for Robina Hospital.

Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk said this was another example of her Government’s commitment to building the new and expanded hospitals our health system needs to stay strong and continue to keep pace with growing demand.

“The Gold Coast region is experiencing significant population growth and we’re seeing the impact that is having on the demand for health services in the region,” the Premier said.

“Our plan includes a new hospital and health precinct in Coomera, on a preferred site of 13.52 hectares of land owned already by Queensland Health at 41 George Alexander Way.

“It is ideally situated in the Coomera region and is within walking distance to the Coomera train station.

“We have set aside $3 million to develop the plan in consultation with the community and stakeholders for the infrastructure and services we need on this site.
“We’ve been able to keep our economy open because of our strong health response and this will mean we can continue to deliver world class health care for this fast-growing part of the Gold Coast well into the future.”

Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Ambulance Services Steven Miles said the new hospital and health precinct for the northern Gold Coast is on top of the recently announced expansion of the Gold Coast University Hospital and satellite hospital.

“Only Labor will continue to invest in the frontline health staff and health infrastructure needed to ensure all Queenslanders have access to world-class health care.

“The Palaszczuk Government is investing $111.3 million on a new 40 bed mental health rehabilitation facility, as well as a new hybrid theatre at GCUH.

“This will allow our wonderful teams to take care of some of the most vulnerable members of the community and to do a better job of it.

“Not only does this provide better health care closer to home, but we’re investing in projects that support local jobs.

“Our investment of $160 million in health infrastructure for the Gold Coast will support 470 jobs.”

Member for Gaven Meaghan Scanlon welcomed the announcement.

“This is exactly the type of health boost that our growing community needs, and I am proud to be part of the Palaszczuk Labor Government that will deliver it for our community,” Ms Scanlon said.
“Gold Coast hospitals are among the busiest in the State and the Robina Hospital CT service is currently operating at capacity, with more than 13,000 CT scans being completed at the hospital each year and demand continuing to increase.

“Labor will invest $5.7 million to deliver a second CT scanner for Robina Hospital to improve access to CT scans for patients and improve patient flow within the Emergency Department.”

Labor candidate for Coomera Chris Johnson said a new hospital and health precinct in the northern Gold Coast region will mean greater access to care for many in the community.

“The demand for health care in our community is increasing, and with every person expected to have contact in some shape or form with a hospital in their lifetime, we need to invest in more care to expand capacity in the health system,” Mr Johnson said.

“A new hospital and health precinct at Coomera will future proof the health system here on the Gold Coast, as our population continues to grow.”

Labor candidate for Theodore Tracey Bell said the planning process will explore the health needs of the local community and tailor services to those needs.

“Initial modelling suggests the new health precinct is expected to provide around 200,000 occasions of service every year to the local population,” Ms Bell said.

“A new hospital and health precinct will reduce travel times and give patients more choice on where they can seek health care and treatment.

“This will mean greater access to health care for many patients and will free up capacity at other hospitals in the region, which will
benefit everyone living on the Gold Coast.”

Labor candidate for Currumbin Kaylee Campradt said that Labor’s $40 million commitment to build a Satellite Hospital on the Gold Coast is a game-changer.

“A satellite hospital will give locals much better access to care, closer to home and in a convenient setting. And it will really take the pressure off our busy emergency departments,” Ms Campradt said.

“The Satellite Hospital will be tailored to the needs of our local community and can include ambulatory and simple day therapy services such as renal dialysis, chemotherapy, complex wound management, and urgent care for minor injury and illness.

“It can also include outpatient services and community-based health services such as child and youth health services and aged and frail care services.”

Labor candidate for Burleigh Wayne Bartholomew welcomed the boost to local construction jobs created by Labor’s investments.

“The Gold Coast has been hit hard by the COVID downturn. Things are turning around but every extra job makes a difference. 470 construction jobs is a terrific boost for the local economy,” Mr Bartholomew said.

The $160 million investment is part of Labor’s Economic Recovery Plan, which includes $889 million of new health infrastructure commitments as part of a $3.8 billion health infrastructure program over the next four years.

The Deputy Premier said only Labor will continue to properly invest in health care for Queenslanders, in contrast to the LNP’s pathway to cuts because of their reckless race to a surplus.
“The Palaszczuk Government is continuing to rebuild the health services and frontline staff after the LNP cut them, as part of our ongoing Economic Recovery Plan,” Mr Miles said.

“Since coming to government in 2015, we’ve hired 304 more doctors, 1,129 more nurses and midwives, 255 more health professionals and 103 more paramedics on the Gold Coast.

“When the LNP were last in Government and Deb Frecklington was Assistant Treasurer, they sacked 57 staff from hospitals on the Gold Coast, including 54 nurses.

“Queenslanders can’t risk a Frecklington LNP Government which would only be able to achieve its goal of a surplus in four years by cuts.”

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