

Question on Notice

No. 1371

Asked on 16 October 2018

MR L MILLAR asked the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (HON DR S MILES) –

QUESTION

With reference to conflicting public media reports since June 2017 regarding the government's funding of the Blackall Hospital redevelopment and also given the Treasurer's statement in her 2018-19 Budget speech—

Will the Minister (a) advise why only \$361,000 of a promised \$5m allocation was delivered to this project in the 2017-18 budget year, (b) advise what has happened to the remaining \$4.639m from the 2017-18 budget allocation, (c) advise why only \$1.23m has been allocated in the current 2018-19 budget, (d) commit to fully funding in the next state budget the remaining \$16.3m required to construct the Blackall Hospital redevelopment and (e) provide a timeline of when these funds will be made available?

ANSWER

- (a) The project expenditure incurred in 2017-18 was primarily to review the early preliminary planning and to engage the design team to complete the planning phase of the project.
- (b) Allocated project funding remains with the project until its completion, and the balance of funds not committed in 2017-18 have been re-distributed based on revised project timings.
- (c) The allocation of funds for 2018-19 are to complete the design and prepare the tender documentation for the main construction works.
- (d) As documented in the 2018-19 budget papers (Capital Statement – Budget Paper No. 3), the full announced budget for the Blackall Hospital Redevelopment project of \$17.9 million has been allocated across the prior, current and future financial years. The Palaszczuk Government is delivering on our \$17.9 million announcement for the residents of Blackall and surrounding areas.
- (e) The funds will be made available as required based on project cash flow projections that are provided by the Department of Health and the Central West Hospital and Health Service. The expected completion date for the project is 2021, as announced.