



Hon. Jeff Seeney

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Record of Proceedings, 27 August 2014

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Health Services, Development and Planning

Hon. JW SEENEY (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (2.10 pm): Our government has a strong plan to revitalise front-line services across Queensland. My Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning is delivering better access to health services and better education facilities for all Queenslanders. In particular, the department is playing a role in identifying and unlocking the potential for government land to improve outcomes for the community. We have been helping to deliver exciting new health precincts on both the Gold and Sunshine coasts that will revitalise services to some of the fastest growing areas of the state.

The commissioning of the new Gold Coast University Hospital in September 2013 left the government with the welcome challenge of what to do with the 3.4-hectare old Gold Coast hospital site at Southport. The new \$1.76 billion Gold Coast University Hospital represented one of the best investments in health services in Australia. The collocation of the hospital with the neighbouring university and the soon-to-be-constructed private hospital has put the Gold Coast on the map for growth in innovation in Australian health care. Currently, my department is overseeing the safe and efficient demolition of the existing buildings on the old hospital site and plans are well in train to release the land to the market for redevelopment to fund further investment in modern health service facilities. Situated as it is in the Southport priority development area, the site's redevelopment will certainly enliven the Southport business district, boost jobs and business opportunities for the local community, as well as provide the funding for modern health service facilities in other parts of the state.

It is not only the larger hospitals in the state's south-east that are our focus. We are determined to improve health services for regional Queenslanders as part of our commitment to revitalise front-line services across Queensland. In the tiny town of Alpha, in Central Western Queensland, we are working with Queensland Health to deliver a major collocation project that will see a brand-new health precinct made available to the people who live in that country town. The Alpha collocation project will see new police, ambulance, fire, rescue and other emergency management infrastructure established on the same site to improve efficiency and better integrate emergency services and health delivery. It will transform the delivery of safety and emergency services across a broad area of the central west and beyond. The Alpha collocation project will be used as a pilot to guide future planning across Queensland's regions for the delivery of this sort of government infrastructure.

In other parts of Queensland, our government is helping communities to help themselves by identifying land and buildings that can be used to support worthy local community health initiatives such as men's sheds. Where they operate, men's sheds have an immeasurably positive health impact for their members. I am pleased to say that my department is assisting in their establishment wherever we can. We have assisted groups in Murgon, Coolum and Nambour to access vacant

government buildings and land to use for providing a men's shed facility. The Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning is playing a central role in helping those organisations negotiate the sometimes complex issues with government agencies that own the sites. There is no better example of that than in Murgon where we worked with Transport and Main Roads to free up a disused railway building and negotiate access arrangements with the South Burnett Regional Council for the Murgon men's shed.

These examples show that this government is working for a healthier Queensland in a whole range of practical ways. We promised to revitalise front-line services and that is exactly what we are doing from the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast through to small country towns in Queensland's regions. Only the LNP has a strong plan for a brighter future for all Queenslanders, no matter where they live in our great state.