




Speech By
Hon. Jeff Seeney

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Rural and Regional Queensland, Services

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.38 am): Nothing makes me more proud to be a regional member of our LNP government than seeing front-line services revitalised in country towns, especially the reversal of the neglect our regional hospitals suffered under Labor. The great work of the new hospital and health service boards has been featured in the first edition of the RegionsQ magazine. I table a copy of it for the benefit of the House and encourage all members to have a look.

Tabled paper: RegionsQ—Issue One [6367].

The new RegionsQ magazine will be a bi-monthly publication sharing the stories and experiences of regional Queenslanders with a broad audience. RegionsQ focuses on issues that are important to regional Queensland communities such as health, transport, tourism and education. It tells the stories of delivering front-line services to people in country towns. It tells the stories of people like new Roma mum Melissa Green who benefit from the continuity-of-care maternity model now being offered at the Roma Hospital or Scenic Rim resident Amy Cartwright who recently gave birth to her son at Beaudesert Hospital, the 100th baby to be born at the hospital since our LNP government restored birthing services in March. Those are all real-life examples of how we are revitalising front-line services in country towns for the country people who live there.

For example, in my own electorate Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service Board member Bronwyn Christensen said country people are appreciative that no longer are decisions being made from Brisbane by bureaucrats who may never have set foot in a country town. Hospital and health service boards implemented by our government have not only ended years of sustained budget blowouts in regional health administration, but also have reduced duplication and provided better performance. They have also significantly improved services, slashing hospital emergency waiting times and long waits for dental treatment. Last week, my own local paper printed an article about dental visits. It is something new when a dental clinic gets reported in the local paper. The article stated—

MANY Monto locals couldn't believe their eyes when a public dental clinic rolled into town last month.

Only five years ago, the waiting list for dental services in Monto was 62 months, or over five years, and was 12 years at other places in the Wide Bay-Burnett.

I table this cartoon, which is a not-very-flattering likeness of the local member and the dental van. It illustrates a great example of restoring front-line services to country people in country towns.

Tabled paper: Page 10 of the *Central Telegraph*, dated, 17 October 2014, titled 'Valleys' Voice' [6368].

We are building a stronger, more prosperous regional Queensland through better front-line services, putting back the services that Labor took away. We are growing the economy and delivering better infrastructure through programs such as Royalties for the Regions. The Royalties for the Regions program does not just deliver roads, water and sewage plants, as important as they are.

Royalties for the Regions has also delivered funding for a new medical centre in the mining community of Dysart. It has funded new child-care centres for Blackall and Barcardine and it has funded a new swimming pool for the kids at Karumba in the gulf. The Newman LNP government is working hard to revitalise front-line services to ensure regional Queenslanders are safer and more secure. We are investing in better technology and providing more support for front-line staff so that Queenslanders living in country towns and regional cities receive better services and the care that they need from our government.