



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR OODGEROO

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ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from 19 September (p. 2653)

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (5.36 pm), continuing: In a previous position Minister Kate Jones, now the member for Cooper, had promised, together with former premier Bligh, 400 ecotourism jobs to replace the sandmining jobs on North Stradbroke Island and assured residents that that plan would be put into place. So far today we do not see any of those jobs.

The member for South Brisbane wanted to get in on the act. She promised that there would be something in the order of several hundred jobs that would flow on from Toondah Harbour in time to save the Sibelco workers and others on North Stradbroke Island who were no longer in employment due to Labor's laws. We have had two ministers previously promise two lots of hundreds of jobs that were supposedly going to save the economy as this rapid rushed transition out of sandmining was to take place.

To date those promises have not eventuated. Both the LNP and industry experts warned and cautioned about those kinds of promises yet the government of the day, because it was hell-bent on that mission to achieve it, ignored what industry experts said and we now have the growing mess that we have today on North Stradbroke Island. Groups like the Australian Workers' Union, Sibelco and the Straddie Chamber of Commerce all told the current Deputy Premier that this jobs transition plan would not work in the time frames that Labor had set in place. It would not work in terms of the timing, the chronology, and it would not work in terms of the skills differences between mining and construction. Yet that advice was ignored. The Straddie chamber president said that saying sandmining jobs can be turned into construction jobs at Toondah Harbour is the easy answer, but it is the wrong answer. The experts turned out to be right again and successive Labor premiers and ministers have turned out to be wrong.

The workers on North Stradbroke Island have been let down by successive Labor governments that make empty promises about their future and do not fulfil them. This week in question time, we heard the revelation from the Premier that only five jobs have been created for sacked workers, as part of the workers assistance program, that is, five jobs in the entire economic transition strategy. That is an absolute disgrace and it shows the difference between Labor promises and delivery. I say to the Premier that if she truly loves Straddie as she says, she should do something to help the people. If you love Straddie, which means you love going there, love the people and do something to help them, because they are desperate.

I am proud of what we achieved when we were in government to provide improved health services in Redland City, particularly with respect to the Redland Hospital. I am proud of what we have been able to fight for and get from successive governments. Under the LNP government, waiting lists at Redland Hospital were significantly reduced and the local dental waiting list was reduced from over 10,000 to zero. We completed the construction of the new emergency department at Redland Hospital, including a paediatric section and 10 new short-stay beds, among other things. We funded the staffing

and nurses that Labor forgot to budget for when we opened the emergency department. Unfortunately, their lack of planning for staffing caused a nine-month delay in the opening of the emergency department. More ambulance officers and new ambulances were provided at Cleveland and Birkdale stations. A new and better ambulance station was built in Cleveland.

Sadly, Labor's Redland Hospital infrastructure freeze has continued into its fourth year. As there is no planned upgrade to the hospital in Labor's forward estimates, that infrastructure freeze has been extended to seven years on big ticket items or a major upgrade. It seems that the federal Labor candidate for Bowman, who is a doctor, does not want to talk about health. He was challenged to a debate, at any time, by the federal member for Bowman, Andrew Laming, but he wimped out. As a doctor, he will not face Andrew Laming in an open debate. Today I repeat Andrew Laming's challenge to him to talk about health, the hospital and Labor's failures for Redland City.

Sadly, the state health minister has neglected the Redlands in the 2018 budget and in the forward estimates. Cleveland district and Redland City residents expect their fair share of the state budget, but they are not getting it. While they are glad that finally my call for a water birthing suite is being heeded, that is not a hospital upgrade as Labor fraudulently claimed in the budget. It is not a major hospital upgrade.

The health achievement that I am most proud of and that I have mentioned in the House before was achieved under the LNP government. It was the establishment of a new palliative care service at the Redland Hospital. That healthcare service included a five-bed palliative care service based at the Redland Hospital, plus additional in-home capacity based out of the hospital.

Sadly, recently the health minister was caught out trying to move beds from the Redland Hospital under the guise of a palliative care review. After receiving credible information from Queensland Health sources, we asked the minister about this through the budget process, estimates, social media, a direct letter from myself and now in a question on notice that I hope, finally, the minister will answer and answer truthfully. The minister will not guarantee the future of the beds, which is all we have asked about. The minister could clear that up in the House today. Are the five palliative care beds at Redland Hospital safe and budgeted for? Are the beds at the hospital budgeted in this budget and beyond? The minister could answer that today.

More not less palliative care investment is needed in the Redlands. We have a growing and ageing population. We need a full 10-bed palliative care unit, plus more in-home care, so that people in our Redlands community with terminal conditions, those who are very ill and those with the worst conditions can die with dignity. We need to be a life-affirming culture, whether at the beginning or the end of life. We do not need radical extreme laws that take human life when we can save it or provide the needed dignity at the end of life.

In terms of education, Cleveland schools warmly welcomed the introduction of the Independent Public Schools initiative. A number of schools in the Cleveland and Redland City areas have become independent public schools. They have been very happy about that commitment and the principals continue to support it. We have seen the construction of important facilities such as the Cleveland State High School year 7 buildings, the Bay View State School indoor auditorium and flashing school lights at almost all of the schools. I am very proud of those achievements. We are looking forward to the opening of the Paul Bancroft Centre, the indoor sports and multipurpose auditorium that has been 10 years in the making. Finally, we did it. We have a commitment to the Cleveland State High School learning centre, which will assist with the growing needs of the school. Most of our high schools and our primary schools are certainly under pressure because of growth in our region.

At some stage, the central region of the Redland City, Cleveland and Thornlands areas will need another high school of some kind—at least in the south.

Ms Grace: Stand in line. Everybody wants one of those.

Dr ROBINSON: Minister, thanks for your lack of enthusiasm for the needs in our area—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Member for Oodgeroo, your comments need to be directed through the chair.

Dr ROBINSON: One idea that has been floated, and I think it is a great idea, is potentially using the unused land at the DPI site at Ormiston bordering on Cleveland, or possibly purchasing the Rural Press site, which is coming up for sale. Those would be great places for a second campus for the animal studies program at Cleveland State High School. Those would be very good solutions for emerging problems.

It would be very disappointing if the education minister were to cut the two demountable buildings at Ormiston State School. It is a great state school. Those buildings house a number of important programs, including the STEM, instrumental music and other programs. My understanding is that the school would have to reduce its offerings in the STEM and languages areas should those demountable buildings be moved. I have been calling for the two buildings to be replaced, not taken away. I ask the minister to intervene and not cut anything from Ormiston State School. Wellington Point State High School has an emerging need as its hall needs some sort of upgrade. In the medium term, the school needs another hall or indoor auditorium. I flag those immediate and ongoing needs.

In terms of transport and road infrastructure, there has not been very much investment in duplicating roads in the Cleveland district and Oodgeroo electorate, or in the Redland City area in general. Certainly more needs to be done to reduce and ease traffic congestion. We need solutions for a number of road intersections, such as at Shore and Wellington streets, which again I bring to the attention of the House. We need investment in rail. We increased the number of seats and capacity on the Cleveland line at peak hour, only to see that unwind under Labor's rail fail. We need that to be addressed.

Mr Minnikin: The misery line.

Dr ROBINSON: I take the interjection from the shadow minister. It has been called the misery line, because people have to wait at stations because there are all sorts of problems associated with the Cleveland line. Emergency expresses are overcrowded. We urgently need solutions.

The duplication of the railway line is the most significant piece of infrastructure needed in terms of rail. It is certainly more important—locals think of it as more important—than an inner-city rail solution which ultimately does need to happen. The duplication of the Cleveland rail line is critical.

There are many other important areas that I could address with more time. I look forward to doing so in the remainder of this parliamentary term, though Labor's new rules have guillotined debate so it will be harder to talk about all of those topics. I look forward to working hard for the families of the Cleveland district and the Oodgeroo electorate in this term of parliament, to getting our fair share of infrastructure and services and to holding this government to account.