



Hon Yvette D'Ath MP
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services
Leader of the House

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Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliament
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to your letter regarding petitions 3500-21 and 3473-21, tabled in Parliament on 24 March 2021, in relation to a Toowoomba quarantine facility. As these petitions are similar in nature, I have taken the liberty of responding to both petitions in this letter. I therefore ask that this response be noted against each petition.

The great majority of COVID-19 cases reported nationally and in Queensland have been acquired overseas. Queensland's hotel quarantine system has been a key feature of Queensland's success in dealing with risks associated with overseas arrivals and suppressing COVID-19 to date. Queensland's hotel quarantine system has been subject to continuous improvement, to guard against the threat posed by new strains of the COVID-19 virus.

As we support Australians and Queenslanders to return home, mandatory quarantine will continue to be a key feature of Queensland's response until there is confidence that the importation of the virus no longer poses a significant threat to our community.

The establishment of a regional quarantine facility, such as Wellcamp, would significantly bolster Queensland's ability to safely accommodate international arrivals.

However, the establishment of any facility is dependent on operational support from the Australian Government and agreement from local, government and industry stakeholders, along with consideration of local operational issues.

Conversations around the potential establishment of a quarantine facility at Wellcamp and in-depth consideration of the challenges and opportunities associated with this option are ongoing. No decision has been made at this point in time to operate a regional quarantine facility at Wellcamp or in any other location in Queensland.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

YVETTE D'ATH MP
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services
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