



Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance
Services
Minister for Women

1 William Street Brisbane Qld 4000
GPO Box 48 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3035 6100

C-ECTF-24/13512

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 petition numbers 4117-24 and 4154-24, tabled in Parliament on 20 August 2024, in relation to an Ambulance Station to be built at Rollingstone. 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 Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) is the busiest ambulance service in the country, responding to approximately 1.2 million incidents every year. Despite being the busiest service, the QAS has the fastest response times in the country, and is the only mainland service that is free – something that will never change under a Labor Government.

I am advised that incidents within the Rollingstone locality have remained relatively stable since 2017-18, with between 50-60 incidents per financial year, or around one incident occurring per week.

In order to manage demand, and ensure Queenslanders receive care when they need it, the QAS continuously monitors workloads across Queensland to ensure the most appropriate level of service is provided to all communities.

Regular reviews of several factors are undertaken including the type of community (urban, rural and isolated), the number of incidents per day (demand), age demographic of the community, ingress to and egress from road and air networks, response time profiling, ambulance utilisation rates, risk profiling of the community and available health infrastructure and access to services.

However, I have asked QAS to specifically consider whether a station is required for Rollingstone, and have asked that the local Assistant Commissioner contact the Member for Hinchinbrook as the Sponsor of these petitions in relation to that review.

I can also advise that, in consideration of future planning and service delivery for Queensland communities, and as an outcome of a base capital review undertaken in 2023-24, the QAS has prepared a renewed 10-year capital infrastructure program.

This capital infrastructure program will include provision of future demand modelling across Queensland and will include Townsville and surrounds, building on recent capital investments in the Townsville region, including the recently opened Burdell Ambulance Station, and the new Kirwan Ambulance Station.

Petitioners may also be interested to know that as part of the 2024-25 Budget, the Miles Government is hiring 268 additional ambos across Queensland, which will mean faster response times and new models of care so that people get the most appropriate care. Of these positions, 21 will be deployed to QAS' Northern Region.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners and provides assurance that the QAS continues to consider and plan to meet the needs and expectations of the community which they are trusted to service.

Yours sincerely



Shannon Fentiman MP

Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services

Minister for Women

Member for Waterford