

MI143751 & M1142563  
MO: H/07/00925 & H/06/09952

18 April 2007

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Email: TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letters dated 4 December 2006 enclosing Petition No 762-06 and 8 February 2007, enclosing petition No. 773-07 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly, regarding the placement of a CT Scanner at the Maryborough Hospital Accident and Emergency Department.

I have been informed that a submission for a Computerised Tomography (CT) Scanner at Maryborough Base Hospital was received in 2004. This submission was not approved as it was not considered viable, in the absence of a radiologist at that time. In addition there were three CT Scanners (one private unit at Maryborough plus one private unit and one public unit at Hervey Bay) in the Fraser Coast Health Service District. The public health service continues to have access to all three units as required.

In order to meet industry standards, the existing CT unit at Hervey Bay Hospital was replaced in the 2005/2006 financial year through the Health Technology Equipment Replacement Program.

Some local Clinicians have expressed concerns regarding the installation of a CT Scanner in the absence of access to appropriate radiology and reporting processes, and have suggested that a CT scanner only be considered for Maryborough Hospital once access to radiology service is improved.

I have been advised that radiography services in the Fraser Coast Health Service District continue to be improved. Computerised Radiography was implemented in the District at the end of June 2006. In addition, the District has been approved as a pilot site for Phase Three Computerised Radiography (Rural and Regional Image Transfer System) expected to be operational in September 2007.

Signatories to the petition will be interested to note that the District is also participating in the development of a State-wide tender for radiology services which will enable arrangements to be formalised, and may increase the viability of CT scanning services in the District.

Further to the above, a Regional Health Service Planning process commenced in February 2007. This plan will guide the profile of services to ensure they are safe and sustainable, and access to a CT scanner will be factored into this planning.

Should you have any queries regarding my advice to you, Ms Cheryl Gaskin, Executive Support Services, Fraser Coast Health Service District, will be pleased to assist you and can be contacted on telephone 4120 6869.

Yours sincerely

**STEPHEN ROBERTSON MP**