

MI111434

Mr N Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 1 May 2003, enclosing a petition received by the House on 29 April 2003, regarding Queensland Health's vacant land at Lutana and Bardon Avenues, Miami.

This land was the subject of an exchange with Gold Coast City Council, for land to construct a multi level car park and helipad adjacent to the Gold Coast Hospital Southport Campus.

The development of the car park did not proceed due to difficulties that the developer had with the Council's street parking arrangements. Consequently the land exchange did not proceed.

As the land swap arrangements with Gold Coast City Council are not proceeding, the Miami land is now surplus to Queensland Health's needs. It is not for sale at this moment.

At a Community Cabinet meeting held at the Gold Coast on 16 March 2003, I committed to giving Gold Coast City Council first option to purchase the Miami land following normal Government Department canvassing in accordance with the Government Asset Management System (GAMS) Disposal Policy.

I also stated that I was prepared to consider selling the land to the Gold Coast City Council at a reasonably discounted price provided the Council agreed to keep the land as open space or an environmental area.

I can appreciate the desire of local residents to maintain the site as a green space, however, it is not the core business of Queensland Health to provide such a service. This is the responsibility of local council. I suggest that the Gold Coast City Council be encouraged to use their environmental levy to purchase the site if they are serious about maintaining the area as an open space or environmental area.

Proceeds from the sale will used to enhance health services on the Gold Coast.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Signed

Wendy Edmond MP
**Minister for Health and
Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy**