



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

10 DEC 2020

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I write to provide a final response to your letters regarding petitions 3400-20 and 3434-20, tabled in Parliament on 10 September 2020 and 26 November 2020 respectively, in relation to Cairns Hospital. 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 Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service continues to plan for future service delivery to meet the growing needs of the catchment population, which includes tertiary level service provision for northern Queensland. This includes working with James Cook University to deliver a university hospital for Cairns.

The Palaszczuk Government has recently committed \$67.9 million towards the planning and delivery of key infrastructure at Cairns Hospital.

This commitment includes \$30 million to deliver an Emergency Department expansion, as well as a new endoscopy suite and operating theatre to address short term demand while longer term planning for the hospital is undertaken.

A key commitment is \$15 million to acquire land for a research, education and innovation centre near the Cairns Hospital.

A further \$1.5 million was committed for a preliminary business case to start planning for a research and training facility and additional beds to cater for future population growth.

Planning is an important part of providing sustainable health services and goes through several phases, including health service planning to establish the future health service needs as well as concept and business case evaluation.

The proper planning process must be undertaken before the government can make any further capital funding commitments.

This work helps to ensure Queensland Health delivers the right services to the right people, both now and into the future. The Cairns community will be invited to provide input into the planning process.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

YVETTE D'ATH MP
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