



Hon Paul Lucas MP



Deputy Premier
Minister for Health

MI164770
MO: 09000139

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

26 OCT 2009

Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to the petition received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly No 1250-09, regarding the Sunshine Coast University Hospital Project (SCUH). I apologise for the delay in responding.

The Bligh Government is committed to expanding healthcare services on the Sunshine Coast.

The Queensland Government has a \$190 million infrastructure program that will deliver local jobs and an additional 150 beds at the Nambour General Hospital and Caloundra Hospital.

The Nambour General Hospital redevelopment has already delivered an extra 30 beds, with a further 96 beds due in 2011. An expanded specialist outpatients department and medical imaging department along with an extra 30 beds have also recently been constructed as part of the on-going Caloundra Hospital redevelopment.

Government is about making hard choices and Global Financial Crisis has meant that the Bligh Government has had to make the difficult decision to reorder the development of the SCUH.

The SCUH will be delivered in partnership with private industry based on a funding and construction model called a Private Public Partnership (PPP). Recent market soundings have confirmed that the private sector will find it difficult in the current financial climate to raise sufficient funds for projects such as SCUH until financial conditions improve in Australia.

It is expected that an improvement in the financial environment over the next two years will allow the Government to successfully partner with the private sector and deliver the best hospital and best value for money outcome for residents of the Sunshine Coast and Queensland.

To ensure health demands are met in the interim period, the Government is accelerating the procurement of a private hospital on the SCUH site and will purchase 70 public beds from this facility in 2013 growing to 110 beds the following year.

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The additional capacity provided by the private hospital at Kawana, will allow Queensland Health to grow its services to treat patients with more complex illnesses, reducing the number of patients who would otherwise need to travel to Brisbane for treatment.

I would like to thank you again for your interest and your concern and hope that this letter demonstrates the Government's commitment to healthcare provision on the Sunshine Coast.

Should you have any queries regarding my advice to you, Mr Mark Wilde, Executive Project Director, Sunshine Coast University Hospital Project, Queensland Health, will be pleased to assist you and can be contacted on telephone 3006 2987.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Lucas', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

PAUL LUCAS MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Health