



12 MAY 2011

Office of the **Minister for Health**

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 8 April 2011, regarding Petition No. 1623-11, concerning the current location of Cairns Base Hospital and the suitability of the location of the hospital during a natural disaster.

Queensland Health is committed to improving health service delivery for all Far North Queenslanders. Part of that commitment is the current major redevelopment of the Cairns Base Hospital that is scheduled for completion by the end of 2014. This major redevelopment has been informed by extensive planning, including an assessment of alternative locations and climate impact studies.

In 2007, preparatory planning including climate impact studies were undertaken by independent experts to inform the redevelopment of the Cairns Base Hospital. Based on the results of these studies, all new buildings at the Cairns Base Hospital are designed in accordance with Building Code of Australia requirements to withstand category four cyclones and extensive tidal surge levels. The new clinical services building Block D is planned to be 500mm higher than the one in 1000 year storm surge predictions and equivalent to a one in 850 year storm surge event based on 2050 climate change adjusted figures. Engineering estimates are that it would require a Q500 flood event for ground floor flood inundation.

Queensland Health has commenced health service planning for the Cairns and Hinterland Health Service District, with planning due for completion by late 2011. The planning will consider the role of the District in supporting the broader Far North Queensland regions of Cape York and Torres Strait, identify services required within the southern growth corridor of Cairns and also identify an emergency centre for use in times of disaster. In addition, Queensland Health has acquired a 19.85ha site within the Edmonton Town Centre to accommodate future health services for the growing population in the Cairns and Hinterland region.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely



GEOFF WILSON MP
Minister for Health