

Our Ref: (DES/02/0237-1656)  
Min Ref: (E/03/02165)

Mr Neil Laurie  
Clerk of the Parliament  
Queensland Parliamentary Service  
[TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to the petition received by the House on 28 May 2003 from HaleNET Pty Ltd of Stanthorpe, concerning the introduction of the Queensland Government's Community Ambulance Cover.

The ambulance levy will be applied to both residential and business accounts. If the levy was restricted to residential accounts or principal places of residence, it would significantly reduce the base from which funds are drawn and the levy would have to be much higher.

The State Government has recently addressed the issue of multiple accounts by expanding the list of available exemptions. If a business receives electricity on a commercial (non-domestic) tariff and the electricity is supplied to a single place of business or place solely used to conduct a single activity, only one levy will apply regardless of the number of accounts received.

Community Ambulance Cover on business electricity accounts may qualify for a tax deduction, and I encourage business operators to speak to a tax advisor or the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) about their eligibility in this regard. The ATO can be contacted on telephone number 13 2866.

The State Government has worked hard to develop the most equitable system possible. After 1 July 2003, all Queensland residents will be covered for ambulance services anywhere in Australia regardless of their circumstances. The QAS will be provided with an adequate and predictable funding base through the introduction of Community Ambulance Cover.

Yours sincerely

**HON GORDON NUTTALL MP**  
Acting Minister for Emergency Services  
Acting Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland