



Minister for Health and
Minister for Ambulance Services
Member for Woodridge

25 NOV 2015

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

Dear Mr Laurie *Neil,*

I write in relation to petition number 2488-15, tabled in Parliament on 27 October 2015, regarding the Dimbulah Primary Health Care Centre (PHCC).

I understand the community of Dimbulah is seeking an upgrade to the Dimbulah PHCC on account of its age, condition and functionality. I acknowledge the importance of health services within local communities especially in this case, where the Dimbulah PHCC is providing support to the more vulnerable members of Dimbulah and surrounding districts, particularly those who may find it difficult to access services at Mareeba Hospital.

In 2015, my department introduced more rigorous processes to ensure the available capital is allocated efficiently. Proposed initiatives seeking capital funding are identified, assessed, prioritised and managed to address highest need while optimising benefits and return on investment across the state. These processes are consistent with the requirements of the Project Assessment Framework, a whole-of-government policy administered by Queensland Treasury.

As part of this process, my department is planning the best way to meet the needs of small hospitals and clinics in Queensland's rural and remote areas. The department is currently working alongside local Hospital and Health Services to identify and assess facilities potentially requiring replacement or refurbishment. I have asked the department to consider Dimbulah PHCC as part of this work.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

CAMERON DICK MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Ambulance Services