



Minister for Health and  
Minister for Ambulance Services  
Member for Woodridge

7 DEC 2015

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to your letter regarding petition number 2509-15, tabled in Parliament on 12 November 2015, in relation to the upgrade of the Atherton Hospital.

The Atherton Hospital has been identified by the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service as its highest priority for infrastructure investment.

In 2015, the Department of Health introduced more rigorous processes to ensure initiatives requiring capital funding are identified, assessed, prioritised and managed to optimise performance and return on investment. These processes are consistent with the requirements of the Project Assessment Framework prepared by Queensland Treasury, and updated in July 2015.

In June 2015, the Department of Health endorsed commencement of planning for the Atherton Hospital. A Preliminary Evaluation for Atherton Hospital is underway. The Government has made \$100,000 available for the development of a Business Case for consideration by Government.

Please be assured that these planning and business case development processes for the Atherton Hospital are progressing as a priority of the Department.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cameron Dick'.

**CAMERON DICK MP**  
**Minister for Health**  
**Minister for Ambulance Services**