



Hon Yvette D'Ath MP
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services
Leader of the House

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Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliament
George Street
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Dear Mr Laurie ^{Neil}

I write in response to your letter regarding petitions 3849-23 and 3872-23, tabled in Parliament on 21 February 2023 and 23 February 2023 respectively, in relation to the delivery of the new Tara Hospital. As these petitions are similar in nature, I have taken the liberty of responding to both petitions in this letter. I therefore ask that this response be noted against each petition.

The Palaszczuk Government is delivering a new, contemporary Tara Hospital as part of its \$1.038 billion investment in the Building Rural and Remote Health Program to replace ageing rural and remote facilities across Queensland.

The new Tara Hospital will include a 12-bed inpatient unit and will provide emergency and palliative care along with clinical services, outreach services, and staff accommodation.

I have been advised that staff consultation commenced early in the project with feedback informing the concept design, and that consultation with other key stakeholders, including the Western Downs Regional Council, has also commenced. The communication and consultation plan that will guide additional engagement and communication activities is nearing completion, and stakeholders will be engaged at various stages throughout the delivery of the project.

A community briefing is planned to take place once the concept design is available to be distributed to the community and relevant stakeholders. The Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service values the input of its Tara Hospital Auxiliary, and members will be invited to participate in the upcoming community forum following the finalisation of the concept design. Additionally, planned consultation will continue through the next design phases, which is standard practice for construction projects to ensure designs can be viewed and feedback provided by stakeholders.

I have been advised that the Western Downs Regional Council's flood modelling has been taken into consideration in the design and location of the new Tara Hospital.

Finally, the existing helipad, which was opened in 2021, will remain as this was designed to be located above flood peaks, in line with flood modelling. The helipad will remain operational during construction.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely



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