

Our Ref: (DES/02/0345-1715)

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 11 November 2004, regarding petitions, numbered 402-04 and 403-04, lodged by the electors of the Division of Maryborough, seeking to have an ambulance station built at Glenwood.

At the outset, I would like to assure you that the Queensland Government is committed to providing the best possible ambulance service to the people of Queensland. One of the Beattie Government's election commitments over the next three years to the Queensland Ambulance Service, includes \$35.9 million to recruit 240 extra paramedics, with the first 100 commencing in 2004-05, this is on top of the 110 paramedics already promised by the Beattie Government for the 2003-04 financial year.

The Commissioner, Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) has advised that a review has been conducted into the statistics of the workload in the Tiaro Shire, including Glenwood, for the current financial year. According to these statistics, there were no emergency responses by the QAS and only four pre-booked/non-urgent transport cases were completed in Glenwood over a four-month period (July to November 2004). An analysis of data for the Tiaro Shire indicates that the establishment of a full-time professional ambulance service in Glenwood or the Tiaro Shire is not warranted.

You would be aware that the QAS provides emergency response to those areas by road ambulance, supported by the helicopters from Maroochydore and Bundaberg. Further, I am advised that preliminary discussions have occurred between members of the Tiaro Shire Council and the Assistant Commissioner, North Coast Region with the possibility of establishing a QAS First Responder Group over the coming years, once the QAS workload in those areas increases and satisfies the demand for service.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. However, should further information be required, please contact Mr Murray Excell, Assistant Commissioner, North Coast Region, QAS on telephone number (07) 5420 9999.

Yours sincerely

Hon Chris Cummins MP  
**Minister for Emergency Services**