



The Hon Chris Cummins MP
Member for Kawana



Minister for Emergency Services

Our Ref: (DES/02/0568-0339)

27 APR 2005

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Cnr Alice and George Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter to dated 24 March 2005 enclosing a petition number 452-05 lodged by the residents of Camp Hill regarding the new ambulance station and emergency services precinct for south side residents.

I welcome this opportunity to address the concerns raised in the petition and highlight some important points.

With more than 43,000 people living in the surrounding districts, including a number of large nursing homes and hostels in Camp Hill, the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) determined that the current Balmoral ambulance station site was not suitable to meet future service demand growth.

Both the QAS and Queensland Fire and Rescue Service have identified that a joint facility at Camp Hill will enhance emergency services in the area and ensure we are well placed to meet the future needs of the local community.

In an effort to maximise traffic and pedestrian safety, the plan proposes that emergency vehicles would enter the station from Ferguson Road and exit via Wiles Street. In regards to concerns with traffic congestion and noise, I would like to point out that ambulance vehicles already use Ferguson Road to access areas to the east of Camp Hill. Traffic accessing the school via Ferguson Road will not be affected by emergency vehicles.

I can also assure you our QAS paramedics are trained to drive to the conditions of the road and its level of traffic – both vehicular and pedestrian. They, more than most others in our community, recognise the consequences of an accident and the need for extreme caution in school zone areas.

Disruption to education programs and added problems with traffic congestion is unlikely because all world-class ambulance services, including QAS, now base their operations on the provision of a pre-hospital mobile service. Today, the ambulance station is merely a base for paramedics to start and end shifts, resupply and maintain equipment.

.../2

Level 3 Emergency Services Complex
Cnr Kedron Park Road and Park Road
Kedron Queensland 4031
GPO Box 1377
Brisbane Queensland 4001
Telephone +61 7 3247 8190
Facsimile +61 7 3247 8195
Email emergency@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Website www.emergency.qld.gov.au

Most responses, particularly in metropolitan areas, are from on-road locations and our experience throughout the state has shown that the addition of an ambulance station to a particular location will not significantly increase traffic congestion. Therefore, I am confident there will be no noticeable increase in noise pollution with ambulance vehicles attending emergency cases.

I would like to point out that the QAS has explored a number of options for the relocation of the Balmoral Ambulance Station, including various locations in Creek Road. QAS rejected these sites as unsuitable. These sites would not allow the QAS to fully maximise its delivery of ambulance services to residents living on the south side, and nor would the location be compatible with the response areas of adjacent ambulance stations in the greater Brisbane region.

I can assure you that QAS examined many alternatives and determined that a replacement station, built on the current site of the Camp Hill Kindergarten, as the most suitable site to deliver ambulance services to the people of Camp Hill and surrounding districts.

Regarding concerns about public consultation, every effort has been made to include the ideas and issues of those affected by the proposal. The planning process to date has involved seven months of consultations with the local kindergarten, state school, local residents as well as government representatives to ensure those to benefit from the enhanced service have had their ideas and issues thoroughly considered.

All feedback raised through these consultations, including issues of safety and environmental impact, has been included in the facility's ongoing development along with the professional advice of QAS.

The final outcome of lengthy consultation and planning will ensure that the local community will continue to enjoy a world class standard of emergency services. The completion of a Camp Hill emergency services complex will only enhance this life saving service delivery.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CC', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Hon Chris Cummins MP
Minister for Emergency Services