



Minister for Health and
Minister for Ambulance Services
Member for Woodridge

15 SEP 2017

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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 response to your letter regarding petitions 2772-17 and 2815-17, tabled in Parliament on 22 and 24 August 2017 respectively, in relation to whether flaring (burning) of gas in the Queensland gas fields is safe for the people living in the area. 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.

I can advise that the Queensland Government takes this issue very seriously and the monitoring of air emissions in the gas fields area is expanding. Queensland Health has reviewed various air monitoring results from the gas fields area to date, which have indicated that emissions are below the relevant air guideline values for the protection of human health.

Furthermore, the Queensland Government now provides 'live streaming' of air quality information directly from the coal seam gas field areas in the Western Downs region. This air quality information is now accessible to everyone, which means local communities and the general public can stay informed about the air quality in the area. It also enables the community to easily compare the air quality from the gas fields to other parts of Queensland. This information can be found at www.ehp.qld.gov.au/air/data/search.php.

Queensland Health is committed to providing additional support to the Darling Downs community through a range of important health and social services. These services include the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service (DDHHS) monitoring of patient presentations (which may be related to CSG activities) from General Practitioners and hospitals in the Western Downs area. This health management strategy requires the DDHHS to contact health care providers (local doctors and hospitals) in Tara, Miles, Dalby and Chinchilla to determine if there have been similar presentations. This information is used to identify if adverse health trends arise in the CSG development areas. As part of the doctors' assessment of individual patients, any necessary pathology tests related to the person's medical condition will also be included. To date no adverse health trends have been identified.

Queensland Health also provides support to residents in the gas field areas via the Queensland Health contact centre (13 HEALTH). Residents can obtain medical advice if they have medical concerns.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cameron Dick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

CAMERON DICK MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Ambulance Services