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Mr Neil Laurie The Clerk Parliament House BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to your letter regarding petition number 1845-12, tabled in Parliament on 31 July 2012, in relation to support for the establishment of the Mater Private Hospital with public patient facilities in the Springfield area.

Queensland Health has recently undertaken a state-wide service planning exercise with regards to bed requirements across Queensland in the medium term. The findings of this review, which have been externally validated, were that there was a need for additional beds in the Western Corridor of Brisbane towards Ipswich. Specifically, these beds would be required to service demand in a number of areas including surgery, renal and sub acute care.

The proposed development at Springfield would provide a mid-term solution to increase access to public patient services in the West Moreton catchment area. I have encouraged the Mater Private Hospital to enter into discussions with both the West Moreton and Metro South Hospital and Health Boards about this matter as I strongly support the concept in principle.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

LAWRENCE SPRINGBORG MP

Minister for Health