



Hon Paul Lucas MP
MI171253



3 SEP 2010

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

**Deputy Premier
and Minister for Health**

Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to your letter dated 4 August 2010 regarding Petition No.1503-10. The Petition requests the retention of the existing Gold Coast Hospital at Southport following completion of the new Gold Coast University Hospital.

The Bligh Government is undertaking a major investment in future health services for the region.

The \$1.76 billion Gold Coast University (GCUH) is the single largest hospital project underway in Australia. There can be no greater demonstration of the Government's commitment to the region than this.

The new hospital will have 750 beds – double the number of the existing hospital and new and expanded services.

One of the key planning principles used in the design of the new hospital has been to incorporate flexibility into the building and the site, to accommodate future expansion in the coming decades as the health services profiles and demands grow and change.

The GCUH site master plan identifies the capability of the site to expand by approximately 60% to meet future demand requirements. In addition a private hospital will be collocated with the GCUH, with provision for up to 400 private beds.

Community members will also have door to door access to the GCUH, with both bus and future light rail infrastructure virtually on the new hospital's door step.

The Robina Hospital Expansion will be completed in mid 2012. However the majority of the 154 new beds will come online in mid 2011. The completion of this facility and the GCUH in late 2012 will provide bed capacity for the Gold Coast Health Service District to meet short to medium term in-patient service demand.

In addition QH has purchased 13.5 hectares of land at Coomera for future health services. A health facility on this site will better support the population growth in the Northern Gold Coast region, rather than a hospital located at Southport.

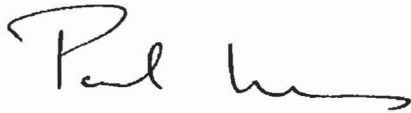
All of this has been underpinned by Queensland Health planning to ensure the necessary expansion of health services to meet the needs of the growing population in the Gold Coast region.

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While the Government has not yet taken a decision on the future use of the Southport Hospital site, any decision will take into account the best possible health outcomes for Gold Coast residents. It will also maximise the massive concentration of top level medical resources in and around the new GCUH precinct that, frankly, will be unprecedented in any provincial city in Australia.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Lucas', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

PAUL LUCAS MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Health