



Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance  
Services  
Minister for Women

1 William Street Brisbane Qld 4000  
GPO Box 48 Brisbane  
Queensland 4001 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3035 6100

C-ECTF-24/9776

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

Email: [ClerksOffice@Parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:ClerksOffice@Parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to your letter regarding petition number 4089-24, tabled in Parliament on 14 June 2024, in relation to the new developments for Biloela and Chinchilla hospitals.

Since becoming the Minister for Health, I have continued to make clear that one of my top priorities is ensuring all women in Queensland have access to high-quality, reliable maternity services close to home, no matter where they live.

The Miles Government has committed \$42 million over four years for maternity services for women living in regional, rural and remote Queensland. This funding will enable Queensland Health to strengthen maternity care models and support Hospital and Health Services to provide safe birthing services. This investment will also assist in attracting and retaining clinical staff.

We are also prioritising the delivery of modern, fit for purpose birthing facilities. The replacement of the Chinchilla Hospital and the redevelopment of the Biloela Hospital will deliver infrastructure that will accommodate modern and contemporary models of care to support the health care needs of these communities. This will include facilities to support safe, quality maternity services.

I am pleased to advise that consultants have commenced early planning with existing condition assessments and property considerations currently being reviewed, along with clinical planning data to inform scoping for each project. The projects will focus on ensuring the delivery of safe, sustainable services in both communities and there will be no reduction in bed numbers or services at the Chinchilla or Biloela Hospitals.

Queensland Health understands the importance of stakeholder engagement in ensuring the best outcomes for communities where its projects are located. The first stakeholder engagement opportunity for Biloela and Chinchilla Hospitals is expected to occur in late 2024. These communities will be invited to participate in the design and planning for their projects by providing feedback on initial concept designs to ensure the needs of these communities can be reflected in the designs. As planning progresses, further stakeholder engagement opportunities will be communicated.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shannon Fentiman', written in a cursive style.

**Shannon Fentiman MP**

Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services

Minister for Women

Member for Waterford