



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

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to your letter regarding petition number 3991-23, tabled in Parliament on 30 November 2023, in relation to RACQ CQ Rescue Helipad to be located on site at Mackay Hospital and Health Service (within the precinct).

I am pleased to advise that the \$250 million Mackay Base Hospital expansion will provide the community with an additional 128 beds that are expected to come online in mid-2026. These new beds are urgently needed to help support the growing healthcare needs of the region.

I understand the current helipad is directly adjacent to the construction site and due to extensive crane work throughout this project, it cannot remain in use during the construction period of the \$250 million Mackay Base Hospital expansion.

I am advised that the Mackay Hospital and Health Service (the Health Service) has engaged an experienced independent aviation consultant, PSNK Aeronautical Services (PSNK), to assess the feasibility of site options, of which include the land adjacent to the Glenella connection road. PSNK have provided a draft interim Helicopter Landing Site (HLS) options assessment report to Dr Simon Brown who is engaged as an independent retrieval expert.

Additionally, Dr Jason McClure, who is also engaged as another independent retrieval expert, has attended site on Wednesday 13 December 2023 for Clinician Consultation and Thursday 14 December 2023 for review on the drafted HLS options.

Before a decision can be made on the location of the Mackay Base Hospital Helipad during the construction period, the report from the independent aviation consultant, with inputs from an independent retrieval expert must be received and carefully considered by the Health Service and Queensland Retrieval Services, which is anticipated to be completed by January 2024.

I can assure you that the interim solution for helicopter landings during the construction period will have a key focus on patient and helicopter operator safety. The Health Service will continue working with key subject matter experts and stakeholders to develop a suitable and safe interim helipad solution.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Ryan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Ryan MP

Acting Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services

Acting Minister for Women

Member for Morayfield