



RETIREES AUSTRALIA on the Gold Coast

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Working together for a better Gold Coast

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FEBRUARY 08 HEALTH REPORT

Hereunder is a copy of a letter from the Queensland Minister for Health in response to concerns raised by our network about a number of health matters in particular the impacts of the new Robina stadium on Robina hospital services. Helpful responses to our questions have also been received from the Prime Minister and his Federal Health Minister, The Queensland Premier and the Gold Coast Mayor. Beyond keeping a close eye on what actually happens there is little more that we can do at this stage other than to continue to keep you informed.

Jim Simpson Retirees Australia www.RetireesAu.org.



Hon Stephen Robertson MP
Member for Stretton



Queensland
Government

Minister for Health

Mr Jim Simpson
Retirees Australia on the Gold Coast
PO Box 159
NOBBY BEACH QLD 4218

22 JAN 2008

Dear Mr Simpson

Thank you for your recent letter concerning health services on the Gold Coast, in particular the impacts of the new Robina Stadium on services at the Robina Hospital and the content included in your newsletter.

Firstly, thank you for your recognition of the \$41 million investment of the State Government in providing the new Emergency Department, Intensive Care and Coronary Care Units at the Robina Hospital which opened in September 2007. Also thank you for your contribution to the work being done in the implementation of the Interim and Transitional Care strategies within the Gold Coast Health Service District.

For your information and that of your newsletter readers, the Government has also committed a further \$230 million for the redevelopment of the Robina Hospital to expand its capacity to 364 overnight beds to meet projected service demands. An allocation of \$26.1 million has also been committed for the construction of a Health Precinct at Robina which will provide a wide range of ambulatory and community care services. Both these projects are expected to be completed in 2010 and will complement the services to be provided by the \$1.23 billion Gold Coast University Hospital which is scheduled for completion in 2012.

The recent purchase of the Carrara Health Centre will also provide approximately 63 additional overnight sub-acute and rehabilitation beds for the District, to alleviate pressure on the acute beds within Robina Hospital and Gold Coast Hospital.

All of the mentioned projects will include a comprehensive workforce planning strategy aimed at the recruitment and retention of qualified staff necessary to provide the high quality of health care services required on the Gold Coast.

Accordingly, planning and investment in health services by the State Government has been substantial in meeting the needs of the rapidly growing Gold Coast population.

In relation to the Robina Stadium you would be aware that this project is rapidly nearing completion with handover scheduled for January 2008. The actual location of the Robina Stadium was determined by the Gold Coast City Council after investigation of several site options. Planning of the project also included several other studies that addressed both the environmental impacts as well as the traffic management issues that you raise.

Specifically the design of the stadium and requirements on nearby future developments provide a noise attenuation strategy that considers the requirements of both the Robina Hospital and nearby residential areas. This strategy also includes acceptable noise level management as well as limits on hours of operation and frequency of events planned for the stadium. The strategy is compliant with both State and Local Government legislative requirements.

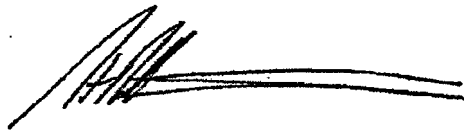
Your concerns in relation to emergency access have been addressed in the traffic management strategy developed for the project which includes Police traffic management on event days as well as priority for emergency vehicle access, for example, Ambulance, Fire Brigade and Police, to the Robina Hospital on those days. The Police presence will be on the roundabout of Bayberry Lane and Robina Town Centre Drive.

You should also be aware that the overall strategy for public access to the Robina Stadium on event days is centred on public transport with park and ride options, designated parking areas throughout the Gold Coast and linking buses as well as rail transport. The buses will access the eastern side elevated car park of the Robina railway station via Cheltenham Drive with a turning circle and exit in that location. This will not involve access to Bayberry Lane, which is the prime access road for the Robina Hospital and as such this strategy will not add to traffic impact on the Hospital.

In addition to those strategies the Hospital will manage vehicle access to the Hospital through the Emergency entrance on event days, with a Security Officer regulating access and parking.

Should you have any queries regarding my advice to you, Mr Mike Allsopp, Director, Facilities Planning and Development, Gold Coast Health Service District, will be pleased to assist you and can be contacted on telephone 5519 8968.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Robertson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

STEPHEN ROBERTSON MP