

Question on Notice

No. 955

Asked on 12 June 2019

MR S O'CONNOR asked the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (HON DR S MILES) –

QUESTION

With reference to the latest data released on over-crowding at Gold Coast University Hospital and population growth projections—

Will the Minister advise (a) what is the government's long term plan to ensure Gold Coast residents can have ready access to a hospital and (b) are there any plans to build a new hospital in the fast-growing northern corridor?

ANSWER

Planning for future healthcare delivery is an important part of the work of Hospital and Health Boards. Ensuring the appropriateness of the Gold Coast's public hospital infrastructure to meet local community needs is an ongoing priority for the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Board.

Planning goes through a number of phases, including master planning, concept and business case evaluation, before any decision is made. This work helps to ensure that Queensland Health delivers the right services in the right place, both now and into the future.

Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service recently completed high level master planning, which identified increasing health service demand in the area driven by population growth. This planning is important as it enables a medium to long term view and consideration of a range of sustainable health service options.

At this time, the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Board has not submitted a proposal for a public hospital and emergency department facilities in the northern Gold Coast area. However, planning is taking place and the Gold Coast community will be invited to provide input into the process.