

## Question on Notice

No. 100

Asked on 12 February 2026

**MR S KNUTH** ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON T NICHOLLS)—

### QUESTION

With reference to the Innisfail Helipad continuing to be out of operation despite constant feedback from the community including the local ambulance service to the Minister—

Will the Minister release the findings of the feasibility report to consider several options, on and off site, which the Minister advised was expected to be completed by the end of March 2025?

### ANSWER

The safety of patients, staff, and community members is a top priority. Several years ago, the Helicopter Landing Site at Innisfail Hospital was closed after a serious safety incident and following advice from the aviation operator that the site could no longer be used safely under current conditions.

Following the independent inspection commissioned by Queensland Health confirming multiple significant non-compliance issues at the site, including insufficient Helicopter Landing Site size, restricted and unsafe access to the flight path, incursions into mandatory safety areas, and unacceptable risks to pedestrians in the vicinity of the helipad, the report makes clear that the Helicopter Landing Site should remain closed until these safety prerequisites are resolved.

I am advised that feasibility of resolving these significant non-compliance issues has been explored, with subject matter experts assessing the entire Innisfail Hospital site and were unable to identify a suitable location for a Helicopter Landing Site, considering the layout and condition of current infrastructure.

I am advised that after exploration of a number of options, approval was given to continue the use of the Innisfail Aerodrome utilising a patient transfer arrangement, along with consideration of incorporating a Helicopter Landing Site in future master planning.

I am advised that 23 transfers with a category 1 or 2 have occurred in the last 12 months, with these transfers taking place via Innisfail Aerodrome which is located approximately 6.4kms from Innisfail Hospital.