

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 632**  
**Asked on 20 April 2016**

MR SEENEY asked the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (HON C R DICK)—

With reference to the Helipad at the Monto Hospital that was constructed with the assistance of local service clubs and to private donors who are now concerned at reports the facility is to be demolished—

Will the Minister advise (a) if there are any plans to demolish, replace or upgrade the helipad at Monto Hospital, (b) why these plans being considered and (c) if the local community will be consulted and informed before any action is taken to demolish or replace a facility they were involved in providing?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Callide for his question.

I recently corresponded with the Monto and District Ratepayers and Residents Association in relation to the helipad at the Monto Hospital. As the correspondence relates to issues raised by the Honourable Member, I enclose a copy of the correspondence for the Member's information.



Minister for Health and  
Minister for Ambulance Services  
Member for Woodridge

MI209374

Mr Jack Muller  
Honorary Secretary  
Monto and District Ratepayers  
and Residents Association  
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20 APR 2016

Dear Mr Muller

Thank you for your email dated 1 March 2016, in relation to the helipad at the Monto Hospital.

I appreciate you taking the time to write. I am advised that while the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service (HHS) acknowledges the Monto community's fundraising efforts in regard to the construction of the current helipad and that it has served the Monto community well, a number of safety issues with the helicopter landing site have been identified. In order to address these issues, the HHS has successfully sourced funding to allow upgrade works to be undertaken on the site later in 2016.

The size of the current helipad touchdown and lift-off area (TLOF) will be increased to 12 metres by 12 metres. As you mentioned in your email, consideration was initially given to leaving the existing helipad concrete slab in place and adding additional concrete to it; however, following consultation with the HHS's structural engineer, it was recommended that the existing concrete be removed as there is no structural engineering specification or design documentation on the existing slab.

Without this documentation, it cannot be confirmed whether the existing helipad can safely accommodate larger helicopters should they need to land on the Monto Hospital site. For this reason, the Wide Bay HHS considers leaving the existing concrete in place to be a significant risk and one that the Wide Bay HHS cannot effectively mitigate.

I am advised that in order to provide increased safety for Monto Hospital patients, staff and visitors, and to ensure compliance with Queensland Government Helicopter Landing Site Guidelines, the new helipad TLOF will be positioned further away from the main Hospital building.

In addition, there is a plan to upgrade the TLOF perimeter lighting. This major safety upgrade is also being carried out to ensure the helipad is compliant with the Guidelines.

Thank you again for bringing this matter to my attention. Should you require any further information in relation to this matter, I have arranged for Mr David Manzini, Manager Building Engineering and Maintenance Service, Wide Bay HHS, on telephone 4150 2081, to be available to assist you.

Yours sincerely

**CAMERON DICK MP**  
**Minister for Health**  
**Minister for Ambulance Services**