



Queensland Health

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Kim Mahoney  
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Dear Kim

**QUEENSLAND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL - STANLEY STREET FOOTPATH CLOSURE**

On behalf of the Project Steering Committee for the Queensland Children's Hospital (QCH), we write to you to advise the status of the Stanley Street Footpath Closure application which has recently been considered by Brisbane City Council (BCC) and to request the assistance of the Coordinator General in resolving this important issue.

The footpath closure along the south side of Stanley Street is being sought to enhance the safety of pedestrians and cyclists.

The footpath closure is also required by the development in order to:

1. provide for construction loading zones to service the tower cranes on that side of the site;
2. erect scaffolding and construct the façade of the building;
3. relocate authority assets located underneath and adjacent to the footpath; and
4. to realign Stanley Street, in particular the approach to the new Vulture, Stanley, Dock and Graham intersection.

In summary, it is necessary to close this section of footpath during the development works so that they can be undertaken in a safe, efficient and cost effective manner.

**Background**

On 12 August 2010, the QCH Managing Contractor, Abigroup Pty Ltd, submitted a footpath closure application to BCC. This application was considered by BCC and was rejected on 25 August 2010. BCC stated:

*"Council recognises the significance of the Queensland Children's Hospital Project however it is Council's responsibility to balance the needs of both the community and development. Safe and accessible pedestrian/cycle movement is to be maintained during the proposed construction."*

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No further reason was provided as to why Council did not support the footpath closure.

On 24 September 2010, the chair of the QCH Project Steering Committee wrote to Lord Mayor, Campbell Newman advising the significance of the footpath closure and that Abigroup would be re-applying based on independent advice from The InterSafe Group Pty Ltd (InterSafe) addressing safety and accessibility concerns.

On 7 October 2010, the QCH Managing Contractor, Abigroup Pty Ltd, submitted a second footpath closure application, which BCC verbally rejected on 9 November 2010 and formalised on 16 November 2010.

At a meeting of 9 November 2010, BCC proposed an alternative solution to the footpath closure and it was agreed that a working group should be established to review the proposal.

The working group met on Thursday 11 November 2010 and reviewed the alternative solution proposed by BCC. At the meeting a new option was developed which we believe meets the needs of both the community and the development. The detailed description and analysis of this revised option is documented in a report prepared by InterSafe. A copy of the report dated 19 November 2010 is attached and has been provided to Council for their consideration.

The unmitigated impacts of not closing the footpath include an increase in safety risk, a delay of up to seven months and increased costs in the order of \$36 million.

#### Current Status

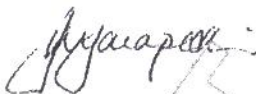
Given the impacts, in terms of safety, time and cost to the project, Queensland Health has sought legal advice as to whether the Coordinator General has the power to overrule BCC with regard to footpath closures and has been advised that:

*"The Coordinator General has the power to impose conditions related to the use/closure of the footpaths in the State Development Area. Any conditions imposed by the Coordinator General will prevail over BCC's powers under the Local Government Act."*

Should BCC's response to the attached InterSafe Report again reject the closure of the footpath, Queensland Health will be applying to the Coordinator General to overturn this rejection.

We would appreciate any assistance the Department of Infrastructure can provide in resolving this issue.

Yours sincerely



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Executive Project Director  
Queensland Children's Hospital Project

25/11/2010

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