



Ms Kara Thomas
President
Nurses Professional Association of Australia

Re: Hospital Access During the Atherton Show

Dear Ms Thomas,

Thank you for your letter regarding access to Atherton Hospital during the 2026 Atherton Show.

The Atherton Tableland Agricultural Society (ATAS) acknowledges the concerns raised by your members and sincerely apologises for any impact the traffic arrangements had on vulnerable patient access during the Show period.

A review of this year's traffic management arrangements found that the contracted traffic management provider, Tableland Traffic Services, failed to implement the approved Traffic Management Plan that they had designed and were contracted to deliver. While the plan was developed to comply with all relevant legislative requirements, it was not followed in practice and elements of the on-ground implementation did not align with the approved arrangements.

The Society takes this matter seriously. Members of the ATAS Executive have met on two occasions with the Director of Nursing and Midwifery of the Atherton Hospital and the Executive Support Office to discuss hospital access requirements. These discussions have resulted in a proposal for the 2027 Atherton Show aimed at ensuring appropriate access for vulnerable patients and address the issues identified this year

The Executive will also meet with relevant officers from Tablelands Regional Council and the Senior Sergeant of Atherton Police to review the matter, reinforce compliance requirements and support improved planning for future events.

The Society values its long-standing relationship with the Atherton community and appreciates the opportunity to work collaboratively with our neighbours and critical stakeholders to ensure that both the Atherton Show and hospital operations can continue to serve the community effectively.

Thank you for bringing these concerns to our attention. We remain committed to continuous improvement and look forward to ongoing engagement with all parties as planning for the 2027 Atherton Show progresses.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Vicki Baylis'.

Vicki Baylis
Secretary