

The problem(s)

Problem One: Lack of funded MRIs

The electorate of Longman is grossly under serviced in the provision of MRI services available to the local population whose income is below the national average. The neighbouring electorate Petrie is also undersupplied. The people of Longman are required to either join the queue to access the solitary MRI licence in the region, travel into the Brisbane City or simply go without.

- **The queue**

The only existing MRI licence in Longman is located at the Caboolture Hospital. They operate extended hours from 7am to 10pm as well as weekends. Still they cannot cope with the demands of servicing the entire region and wait times regularly extend for over a week.

- **The existing MRI scanner**

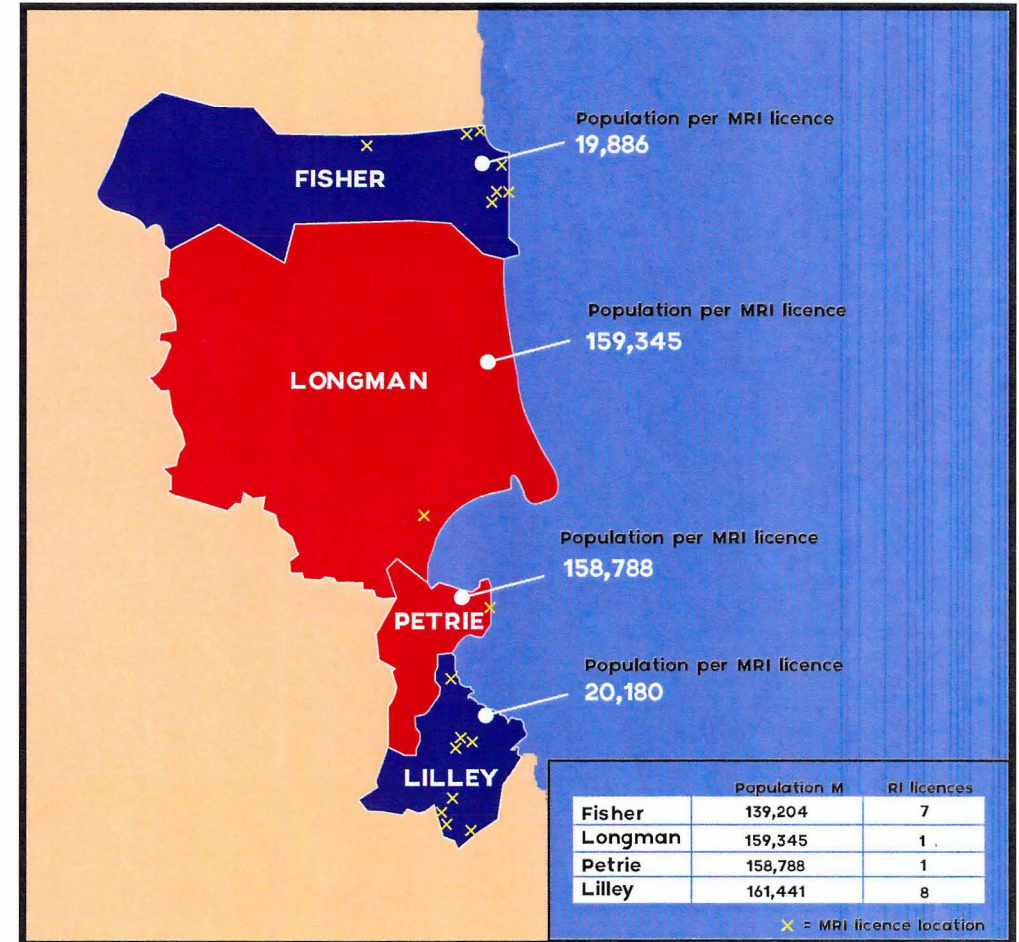
The MRI machine at Caboolture Hospital is a 1.5T which limits the region's ability to perform research studies, prostate or breast imaging.

Problem Two: Need for MRI services to treat patients arriving via Ambulance

Morayfield Health Hub (MHH) is designed to receive ambulance patients for care and treatment avoiding the need for hospitalisation or hospital based medical services.

For many of these patients to be treated successfully at the MHH they will require access to MRI imaging. Without a fully licenced MRI scanner in the building these patients will either have to pay \$400 for imaging or receive ambulance transfer to the Caboolture Hospital, where they will add to the MRI waiting lists, and then back again for treatment.

MRI LICENCES



* Data obtained from Australian Bureau of statistics & Department of Health

The electorate of Longman is grossly underserved in the provision of Medicare funded MRI facilities.

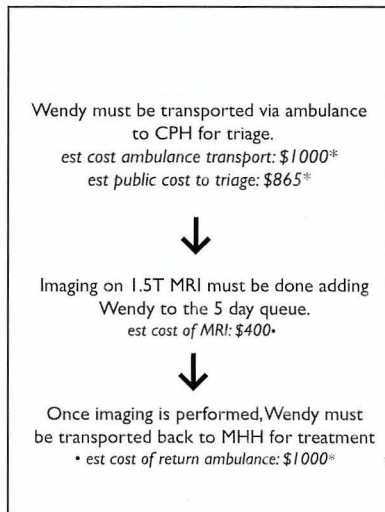
Example scenario 1


Pensioner Wendy arrives at MHH
presenting with severe back pain



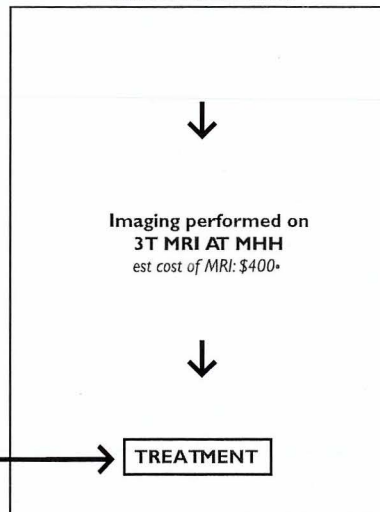
Wendy is assessed at the Urgent Care facility and requires an MRI prior to treatment.
She can't afford \$400 for private MRI imaging

Without MRI licence at MHH



Total est public cost: \$3265 **
est time taken: 12hrs - 5 days

MRI licence at MHH



Total est public cost: \$400 •
est time taken: 2-5hrs

Sources
* Independent Hospital Pricing Authority
• Medicare Benefit Schedule

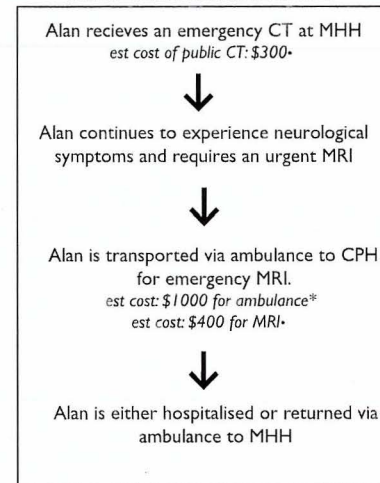
Example scenario 2


Alan presents with neurological symptoms
and is taken by ambulance to MHH



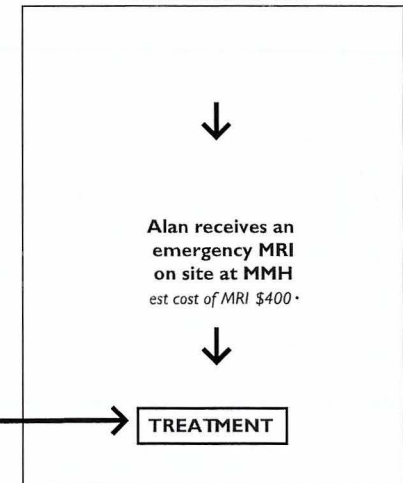
Alan is assessed at the Urgent Care Facility and requires an MRI to rule out an acute stroke. He is unable to pay \$400

Without MRI licence at MHH



Total est public cost: \$1,700 - \$2,700 **
est time taken: 3-4hrs
expected patient outcome: **Poor**

MRI licence at MHH



Total est public cost: \$400 •
est time taken: <1hr
expected patient outcome: **Good**

Sources
* Independent Hospital Pricing Authority
• Medicare Benefit Schedule

The Solution

If the Department of Health issues a full MRI licence then MHH will be able to adequately diagnose and treat patients arriving by ambulance.

Access to this imaging will relieve the burden currently placed upon the solitary licensed MRI in the region currently at Caboolture Hospital.

With access to Medicare funding, X-Ray & Imaging will commit to increase investment to ensure that a 3T MRI scanner will be installed at MHH.

This facility will provide local patients with prostate and breast imaging (*currently not available in Longman*) as well as undertake the necessary imaging for research and teaching of MSK medicine.