



Minister for Transport and Main Roads  
Minister for Digital Services

Our ref: PET55046  
Your ref: A1335327

19 September 2024

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Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition 4100-24 lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 20 August 2024 to provide a land-bridge fauna crossing between Burleigh Heads National Park and Burleigh Ridge Conservation Reserve.

The Gold Coast Highway (Burleigh Heads to Tugun) Multi-modal Corridor Study (published in March 2020) identified the opportunity to establish an 'environmental land bridge' (fauna connection) between Burleigh Head National Park and Burleigh Ridge Park, reconnecting the Burleigh Heads to Springbrook ecological corridors for local fauna, including koalas.

As acknowledged in the petition, a fauna connection at this Burleigh Heads location will provide a long-term solution to allow local fauna to safely cross the Gold Coast Highway away from vehicles.

A proposed environmental land bridge was referred to in the Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 4 (GCLR4) consultation materials presented to the local community during GCLR4 community consultation in 2020, 2021 and 2022. It was also included in the preliminary evaluation completed in 2023.

I can advise that the Department of Transport and Main Roads' (TMR) South Coast Region will utilise an independent and experienced facilitator to lead a co-design process with key stakeholders and community representatives to plan for a future proposed wildlife crossing at this location. Co-design workshops are currently planned for late 2024, following the conclusion of the Caretaker period.

The Miles Government is delivering its ninth record transport and roads infrastructure program in a row, as detailed in the *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2024–25 to 2027–28*, which outlines \$37.4 billion in investment over the four financial years and is estimated to support an average of 28,000 direct jobs over the life of the program. Of this, \$5.458 billion is committed across TMR's South Coast Region, estimated to support an average of 3930 direct jobs over the life of the program.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, connected strokes that form a stylized representation of the name 'Bart Mellish'.

**BART MELLISH MP**  
**Minister for Transport and Main Roads**  
**Minister for Digital Services**