



Hon. Paul Lucas MP



Queensland
Government

Our ref: MC28073

Minister for
Transport and Main Roads

12 MAR 2007

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Re: Petition received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly No 771-07

I refer to a petition lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Ms Rachel Nolan MP, Member for Ipswich on 7 February 2007 about Ipswich to Springfield Public Transport Corridor Study.

I launched this study on 24 October 2006 at the Ipswich campus of the University of Queensland. Since that date Queensland Transport has been consulting with a broad range of residents, businesses and interested organisations on their views about the proposed route options for a public transport corridor.

The need for a public transport corridor linking Ipswich to Springfield is being studied because of the projected growth in population in South East Queensland. To help cater for this growth, Ipswich City Council (ICC) is planning new communities in the Springfield, Redbank Plains and Ripley Valley areas to ultimately accommodate over 200 000 residents.

The *South East Queensland Regional Plan* (SEQRP) identifies that the current Ipswich City population is around 135 000 and provides strategies to manage future growth. It estimates that Ipswich City will grow to around 318 000 residents by 2026.

The SEQRP identifies the Ipswich/Ripley area as being suitable for future medium to longer-term urban development. It also identifies the need for a study into a new public transport corridor from Springfield to Ipswich via Ripley. The regional infrastructure program (*South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan and Program 2006-2026*) identifies that the study should commence in 2006.

The objective of the study is to identify a public transport corridor between Ipswich, Ripley and Springfield.

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Preliminary investigations by Queensland Transport revealed that there were very limited opportunities in preserving a new transport corridor linking Ipswich and the future Ripley Town Centre. The only feasible options are being assessed in this study.

Queensland Transport has commissioned Parsons Brinckerhoff Australia to undertake the study, and provide their professional advice on the preferred route for the public transport corridor.

There are two phases to the study:

- 1 Review the environmental factors that would affect any of the route options under consideration to determine a preferred route for the public transport corridor; and
- 2 Undertake an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) on the preferred route.

Since the study launch, Parsons Brinckerhoff Australia has been assisting Queensland Transport to consult with the community. They have also been undertaking the technical review of the range of environmental factors that would affect any of the route options under consideration. They have analysed information gathered from the technical work and public consultation to make a recommendation on a preferred route.

On 23 February 2007 I announced a preferred route for the public transport corridor between Ipswich and Springfield as Option 1A and 2A, see attached map.

An EIS is now underway on the preferred route, and it will involve more detailed impact assessment work and further public consultation. This work will provide greater detail on noise and other environmental, social and economic impacts and potential benefits for the community. It will also examine the staging and timing of the proposed public transport infrastructure and services. There are a number of factors that would influence when a public transport facility might be needed, including the rate of urban development in the Ipswich to Ripley to Springfield corridor.

I expect that the study will be completed by July 2007. Once the study is complete and State Government considers the study findings and recommendations, I will announce the government's decision on the proposed public transport corridor.

Thank you for your interest in this important transport study. Please be assured that your views will be given full consideration and have been forwarded to the Study Team for review.

If you wish to speak directly to a member of the Study Team, you may contact them on:

Phone: 1800 671 836 (freecall)

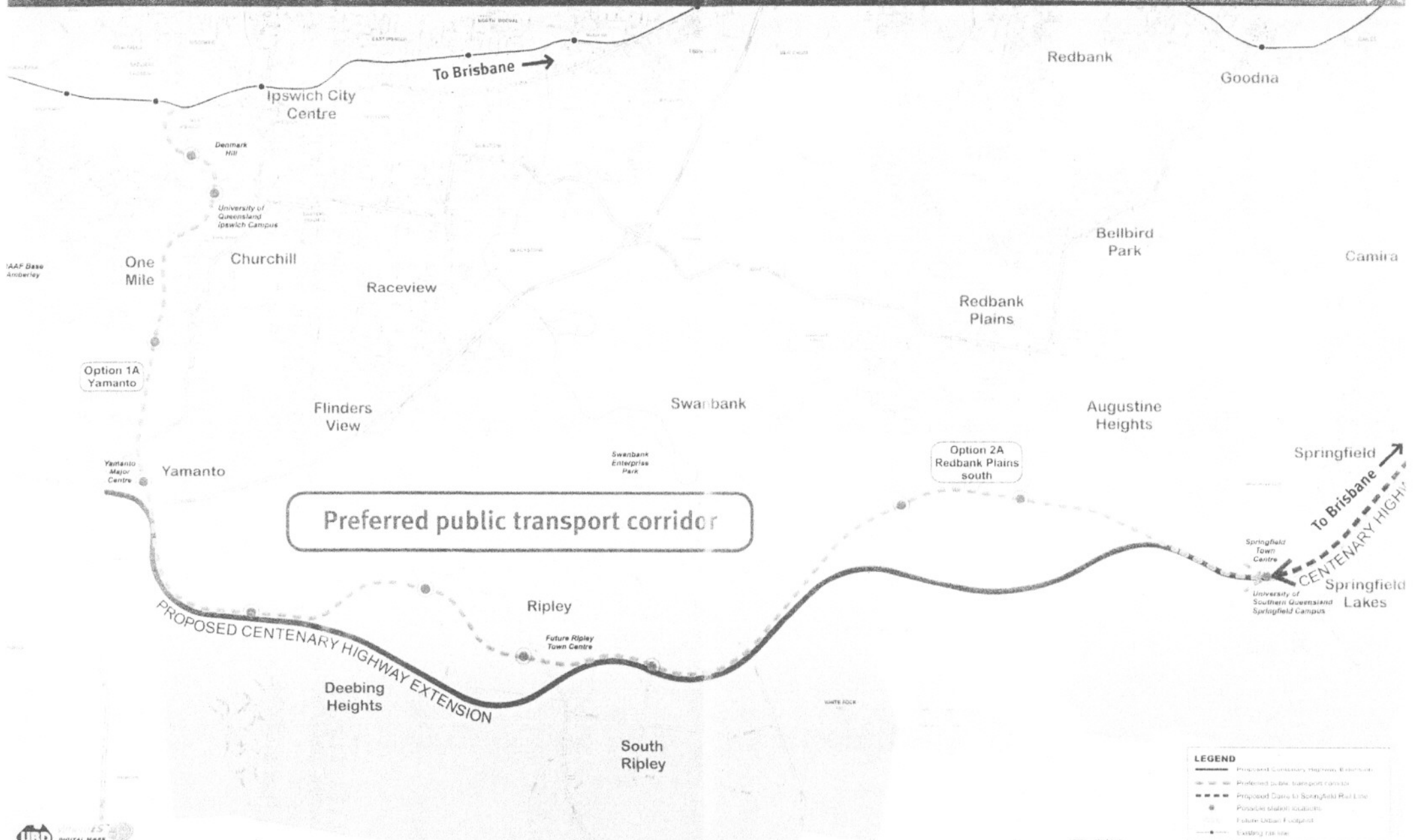
Email: aubneISPTCS@pb.com.au

Yours sincerely

PAUL LUCAS MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Enc (1)

Ipswich to Springfield Public Transport Corridor Study – Preferred option



Preferred public transport corridor

LEGEND	
	Proposed Centenary Highway Extension
	Preferred public transport corridor
	Proposed Corridor to Springfield Rail Line
	Possible station locations
	Future Urban Footprint
	Existing rail line