



Hon. Paul Lucas MP

4/1/07



Queensland
Government

Our ref: MC26022

Your ref: 739-06

Minister for
Transport and Main Roads

22 DEC 2006

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Re: Petition No. 739-06 - request for on- and off-ramps at Nineteenth Avenue

I refer to a petition lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mrs Jann Stuckey MP, Member for Currumbin, on 1 November 2006 about a request for on- and off-ramps at Nineteenth Avenue, Elanora.

The Queensland Government has committed \$392m over five years for the first stage of an eight-year upgrade of the Pacific Motorway between the Gateway and Logan Motorways and between Nerang and Tugun. The upgrade is estimated to cost \$1.5bn (preliminary only). However, to progress these projects to construction, a commitment to a matching contribution from the federal government is urgently required.

Despite the lack of federal funding and inaction by federal and state Liberal members on the Pacific Motorway, the Department of Main Roads is currently developing concept options for the Pacific Motorway Upgrade from Nerang to Tugun. A key objective of the planning study is to develop a strategy encouraging local traffic to use service roads, with through traffic to use the motorway.

Community requests regarding the introduction of on- and off-ramps northbound on the Pacific Motorway at Nineteenth Avenue will be considered in the development of these preliminary concept options. However, restrictions on interchange spacing based on current motorway design standards is a constraint which needs to be considered in the evaluation of any new ramp locations.

The second phase of community engagement, scheduled to commence early 2007, will enable the community to comment on the preliminary options developed in that location.

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The last time the federal government provided a major allocation for Gold Coast roads was in 2003, allocating \$120m capped for the Tugun Bypass. An announcement of funding for the Pacific Motorway upgrade would be most welcome by the state government and Gold Coast residents. It is worth noting that Gold Coast residents are paying \$330m each year in fuel tax, but are missing out on a fair share of federal funding for Gold Coast roads.

On the other hand, the Australian Government continues to pour money into NSW, providing an additional \$160m in 2005-06 for the Pacific Highway, on the basis that the money will be matched by the New South Wales Government. This will bring the total value to \$1.3bn for the new joint investment program until 2009. This is for the same road, just south of the border and the question needs to be asked why the federal Liberal/National Government continues to ignore Queensland motorists.

Yours sincerely

PAUL LUCAS MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads