



**Hon John Mickel MP**  
Member for Logan



**Queensland  
Government**

Our ref: MC39848

**Minister for Transport, Trade,  
Employment and Industrial Relations**

12 JAN 2009

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

<b>LAI</b>	
<b>UPON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE</b>	
No.:	5209T4969
	15 JAN 2009
MP:	Hon. R. Mickel
Clerk's Signature:	<i>MLRies.</i>

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to a petition lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Ronan Lee MP, Member for Indooroopilly dated 3 December 2008 on behalf of Ms Kate Simpson regarding the importance of public transport to all modern cities, and especially the benefits light rail could bring to a city like Brisbane.

The Queensland Government is committed to the ongoing development and sustainability of balanced modes of travel incorporating private vehicle usage and the more environmentally friendly options of rail, bus, ferry, cycling and walking. Rail and bus modes serve Brisbane's broad pattern of land use development well, with the latter providing network flexibility. Light rail is currently being considered for the Gold Coast where the proposed Griffith University to Broadbeach option has the potential for significant patronage and operational cost benefits.

Also, on 7 October 2008 the Premier announced the findings of the *Inner City Rail Capacity Study*. This study identifies the need for four new underground tracks along two corridors from the western Ipswich line linking up to the northern Caboolture/North Coast line, and from the southern Gold Coast/Beenleigh line to the northern lines. This project will result in a world-class 21st century underground rail network for Brisbane.

Queensland Transport will shortly commence a detailed feasibility study to determine the preferred alignment for the first route which is estimated to be completed by mid 2011.

For more information on this project, please visit [www.transport.qld.gov.au](http://www.transport.qld.gov.au) and click on the 'inner city rail upgrade' link.

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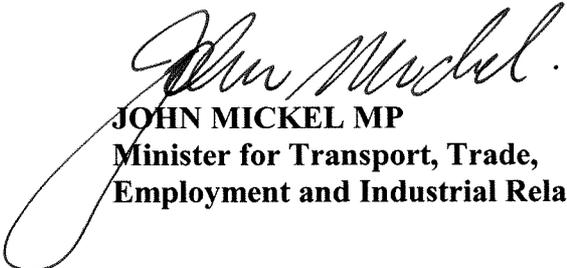
In addition, Queensland Transport and the Department of Main Roads are currently preparing *Connecting SEQ 2031: An Integrated Regional Transport Plan for South East Queensland*. This plan will provide a 22 year strategy to address the critical issue of transport in our growing region. It will include a rail strategy for south east Queensland.

Queensland Transport, in a joint initiative with the Department of Infrastructure and Planning with Brisbane City Council involvement, are also developing an *Integrated Transport and Land Use Inner City Strategy* for Brisbane city. This long term strategy includes the investigation of various rail options to cater for growth with a 2031 planning horizon and scoping to 2050. It is predicted that by 2050, Brisbane will have a population of approximately five million. Therefore with accurate planning fostering higher density development, a high capacity rail system may be justified.

*Connecting SEQ 2031: An Integrated Regional Transport Plan for South East Queensland* will be informed by the *Integrated Transport and Land Use Inner City Strategy* and will present a strategic framework for developing the future transport network for the south east Queensland region. It will also identify transport initiatives that will contribute to the achievement of the government's *Toward Q2* targets.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



**JOHN MICKEL MP**  
**Minister for Transport, Trade,**  
**Employment and Industrial Relations**