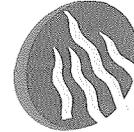




Hon Rachel Nolan MP
Member for Ipswich



**Queensland
Government**

Our ref: MC41800

Your ref: Petitions

Office of the
Minister for Transport

05 JUN 2009

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to a petition lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Ms Fiona Simpson MP, Member for Maroochydore, on 22 April 2009 regarding the CoastConnect – Caloundra to Maroochydore proposal.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads is working with the community to develop plans for a better public transport system on the Sunshine Coast. A balanced transport system is required to cater for population growth of up to 84% between now and 2031. The Sunshine Coast region has the lowest rate of public transport use in south east Queensland and we need to take steps to manage worsening traffic congestion to ensure the coast's unique lifestyle and environment are maintained.

The CoastConnect – Caloundra to Maroochydore proposal is in an early phase of concept planning. The aim of this planning phase has been to consult with the community on a draft proposal and then use community feedback and the results of ongoing technical studies to refine the plans. The draft concept options represent an initial view of possible transport solutions required to cater for future growth and demand.

I want to assure local residents that the department is listening to the community. The project team has met individually with many small business operators and local residents on site along Aerodrome Road and Alexandra Parade. These meetings are ongoing and project team members are continuing to gather feedback and talk to potentially impacted stakeholders.

I am advised that the project team is investigating opportunities for revisions to the plans at a number of locations, including Aerodrome Road and Alexandra Parade. Moreover, the project team has been meeting regularly with a community reference group about their concerns about Alexandra Parade and Aerodrome Road.

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Since the CoastConnect project conception, the department has maintained that these were draft plans and that the department was keen to work in partnership with the community to develop solutions that fit in with the local area. The refined plans are expected to be released for further community consultation in mid-2009.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Nolan', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

RACHEL NOLAN MP
Minister for Transport