

Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PET 45705 Your ref: A884884

21 July 2022

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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 3470-22, lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 21 June 2022 about public transport bus services for Pallara. The Queensland Government is committed to providing a reliable, affordable and accessible public transport network for Queensland.

Bus route 126 (Sunnybank to Acacia Ridge) will be realigned and extended to run along Mains Road and also south to Ritchie Road, providing Pallara residents with the option to use the bus to get to Sunnybank Plaza and CBD connections, or further south to Heathwood. This service extension will result in a large number of residents being within walking distance of public transport from their homes for the first time.

Once Brisbane City Council has installed bus stops that are compliant with Australian accessibility laws, Translink is ready to implement a realigned route 126. I am advised that in the coming months, Brisbane City Council (BCC) will be building the required bus stop infrastructure so that the new route can become operational. This will include three pairs of bus stops located at Brookbent Road, Ritchie Road (in proximity to the old Pallara State School) and one near the new Pallara State School.

Benefits of route 126 extension:

- extended from Sunnybank Plaza to Pallara (Stockland Estate and Ritchie Road) and Heathwood
- high level of connections with high frequency bus services to city and wider network at Heathwood and Sunnybank
- rail connections at Altandi Station, including express connections (Beenleigh and Gold Coast lines)
- buses will continue to service Acacia Ridge shops and Acacia Ridge TAFE.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) will continue to work closely with BCC to deliver this important service and infrastructure for the community of Pallara. Further updates will be provided on the Translink website at www.translink.com.au.

The Palaszczuk Government is delivering its seventh record transport and roads infrastructure program in a row, as detailed in the *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2022–23 to 2025–26*, which outlines \$29.7 billion in investment over the next four years and is estimated to support an average of 25,200 direct jobs over the life of the program. Of this, \$3.371 billion is committed across TMR's Metropolitan Region, estimated to support an average of 2930 direct jobs over the life of the program.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

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MARK BAILEY MP Minister for Transport and Main Roads