



**Queensland
Government**

Hon Rachel Nolan MP

Member for Ipswich

Our ref: MC40853

Your ref: Petitions

Minister for Transport

18 MAY 2009

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

Dear Mr Laurie *Neil*

I refer to petitions (1193-09, 1194-09 and 1195-09) lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Ms Fiona Simpson MP, Member for Maroochydore on 11 February 2009 regarding the CoastConnect project.

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, whose resident and tourist populations are expected to nearly double by 2026. In addition to this, the Sunshine Coast region has the lowest rate of public transport use in South East Queensland. We need to take steps to manage worsening traffic congestion to ensure the coast's unique lifestyle and environment is maintained.

Please be advised that the CoastConnect project 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.

The department knows the importance of community consultation and 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.

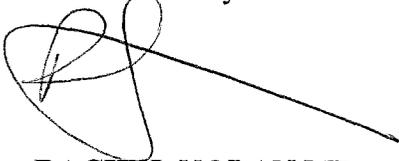
The department advises that the project team is investigating opportunities for revisions to the plans at a number of locations, including Aerodrome Road and Alexandra Parade. Moreover, the project team is meeting regularly with a community reference group regarding their concerns about Alexandra Parade and Aerodrome Road. More detailed work will take place over the coming months, including the preparation of a Concept Design and Impact Management Plan, which will examine ways the project team can minimise the impacts and maximise the benefits for the local community.

Capital Hill Building
85 George Street Brisbane 4000
PO Box 2644 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3237 1111
Facsimile +61 7 3224 4242
Email transport@ministerial.qld.gov.au
ABN 65 959 415 158

Since the CoastConnect project inception, 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 and a draft Concept Design and Impact Management Plan are expected to be released for further community consultation in mid-2009.

I trust this information is of assistance. If you require any further information, please contact Mr Dan Koch from the CoastConnect project team, on (07) 3854 6970.

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