



Hon Rachel Nolan MP
Member for Ipswich



**Queensland
Government**

Office of the
Minister for Transport

Our ref: MC52615
Your ref: Petitions

26 NOV 2010

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

Dear Mr Laurie *Neil*

I refer to a petition number 1452-10 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mrs Julie Attwood MP, Member for Mount Ommaney, on 5 October 2010, about traffic conditions on the Centenary Highway.

The Queensland Government recently released the draft Connecting SEQ 2031: An Integrated Regional Transport Plan for South East Queensland (Connecting SEQ 2031) for public comment. This document is the Queensland Government's blueprint for meeting the transport challenge in South East Queensland over the next 21 years. Its purpose is to provide a vision to guide government decision making and provide the community with an insight and say into how our transport system should work into the future. More information is available on the web site at <http://www.connectingseq.qld.gov.au/>.

Connecting SEQ 2031 includes mode share targets to change the way the region moves during the next twenty years by:

- doubling the share of active transport trips (such as walking and cycling) from 10% to 20% of all trips
- doubling the share of public transport from 7% to 14% of all trips
- reducing the share of trips taken in motor vehicles from 83% to 66%.

In the western suburbs of Brisbane, the draft Connecting SEQ 2031 supports a range of public transport, active transport and road initiatives to address the transport challenges of the western corridor. This includes:

- completion of the Springfield rail line and simplification of rail services along the existing Ipswich rail line. The Darra to Springfield railway line is an investment towards reducing congestion on the Centenary Motorway

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- further investigations of a bus priority corridor from Kenmore to the Brisbane central business district to facilitate more frequent and reliable bus services, enhanced land use opportunities, improved bus to rail connections at Indooroopilly and better active transport connections
- the opening in September of 1.5 kilometres of new lanes as part of the \$1.95 billion Ipswich Motorway upgrade between Dinmore and Goodna.

As you may know, Brisbane City Council recently announced its preferred construction contractor for the Northern Link, which proposes a four-lane tunnel connecting the Centenary Motorway at Mt Coot-tha to the Inner City Bypass. The department will continue working closely with council to determine how to best connect the Centenary Motorway to Northern Link, as well as ensuring it aligns as closely as possible with council's timeline for this project.

With regard to transport upgrades in western Brisbane in general, and the Centenary Motorway in particular, the department is undertaking an extensive suite of planning and construction activities to help alleviate transport issues along this busy but important corridor.

The 4.5 kilometres of two new lanes of high-speed road opened to traffic on the Centenary Motorway in October, signalling the end of construction of the road component of stage one of the \$800 million Darra to Springfield Transport Corridor project. The project includes the building of the passenger railway line from Darra to a new station at Richlands and shared paths and facilities for pedestrians and cyclists. Community consultation on the new timetables for the Ipswich and Caboolture lines will take place later this year with the aim to implement the timetable in the first half of 2011.

The department is also investing in the planning and development of key cycling infrastructure in South East Queensland to assist Queenslanders to reduce emissions. The Queensland Government is also undertaking travel behaviour change programs that focus on providing information to the community about sustainable transport options, aimed to encourage Queenslanders to change the way they travel and to be less reliant on single occupancy motor vehicle trips.

More information on these elements is available on the department's website at www.tmr.qld.gov.au.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



RACHEL NOLAN MP
Minister for Transport