



Hon Craig Wallace MP
Member for Thuringowa



Minister for Main Roads, Fisheries
and Marine Infrastructure

Our ref: PP1810-11

Your ref: Petitions

14 DEC 2011

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

Dear  Mr Laurie

I refer to petition number 1810-11 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by the Clerk of the Parliament on 15 November 2011 about the Samford Road/Wardell Street, Enoggera intersection upgrade concept plan.

The proposed upgrade of the Samford Road and Wardell Street intersection will improve traffic flow, safety and reduce rat running in the local area. The Department of Transport and Main Roads has advised that average delays in peak periods could be reduced by up to 70%.

Based on preliminary investigations, the estimated budget to deliver the concept plan is \$90m. The project design continues to be developed based on community feedback and on-going technical investigations. I can assure residents that the department will continue to plan with a focus on delivering improvements which offer value for money. The department will be happy to provide more accurate cost estimates once the preferred concept plan is released early next year.

You may be aware that previous planning, over 20 years ago, considered that grade-separation of the intersection may be required. Since that planning was undertaken, the department's planning priorities have moved towards better integration of the road network and public transport.

During public consultation, held between 21 July and 2 September 2011, the possibility of a grade-separation of the intersection was raised and subsequently reviewed by the project team. The outcome of that review was that the department still considers a surface solution more suitable as it:

- has lower property impacts
- provides better value for money
- can be constructed quicker and easier
- has potential lower noise and visual pollution issues
- is consistent with long term planning for the area.

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A Wardell Street overpass is likely to have other impacts that would be very difficult to mitigate, for example: access to Lloyd Street from Samford Road and the Enoggera Memorial Hall.

The current planning strategy for this area includes a number of public transport improvements such as the duplication of the Ferny Grove rail line between Mitchelton and Ferny Grove and upgrading the Ferny Grove rail station including the provision of additional parking to encourage increased rail use. Maintaining an investment in roads remains vital to the development of a sustainable transport network. The continued development of the motorway network is part of the long term planning for the local area. To enable consistency with this long term planning, a surface level upgrade of the Samford Road and Wardell Street intersection is appropriate.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Craig Wallace MP
**Minister for Main Roads, Fisheries
and Marine Infrastructure**