



Hon Rachel Nolan MP
Member for Ipswich



**Queensland
Government**

Our ref: MC45397

Minister for Transport

Your ref: Petitions

30 NOV 2009

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Neil

I refer to petition numbers 1332-09 and 1315-09 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Steve Wettenhall MP, Member for Barron River, on 9 October 2009, about bus services into the Freshwater Valley (Redlynch), Cairns.

I am advised that *qconnect* routes 1E and 1G provide hourly access from Redlynch to Cairns City from Monday through to Saturday, with services operating every two hours on Sundays.

I am further advised that on weekdays, routes 1E and 1G are supplemented by route 4, which provides a fast and direct link to Earlville and Cairns' western suburbs, as well as to Cairns City via the Portsmouth industrial precinct. Routes passing through Redlynch also provide access to the key regional centre of Smithfield, as well as James Cook University.

In addition to *qconnect* services, Love's Bus Service operates school bus services from Crystal Cascades along the Freshwater Valley. It is possible for regular passengers to access school bus services. Regular passengers will only be accepted if sufficient space exists on the bus. All passengers are required to abide by the code of conduct for school transport services.

I am also advised that *qconnect* services operate along the Freshwater Valley as far as Michelangelo Drive.

Importantly, the area between Crystal Cascades and Redlynch has been recognised as a potential area for future *qconnect* services. However, the density of housing development along the Freshwater Valley is insufficient to support an urban bus service at this time.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads regularly monitors demand throughout Cairns. However, expansion of services along the Freshwater Valley is unlikely to occur in the short to medium term.

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I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

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

RACHEL NOLAN MP
Minister for Transport