

Warren Pitt MP Member for Mulgrave

Our ref: MC36334

Your ref: 1051-08 / 1032-08

17 JUL 2008
Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Queensland Government



Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to the Petition's 1051-08 and 1032-08, lodged in the Legislative Assembly on 3 June 2008, by Mr Howard Hobbs MP, Member for Warrego, about the permanent closure of Bullockhead Street off-ramp at Sumner.

The closure of the Bullockhead Street off-ramp on the Centenary Highway, northbound at Sumner, is needed for safety reasons, as part of the Ipswich Motorway Upgrade - Wacol to Darra project.

On 17 April 2008, I met with Mrs Julie Attwood MP, Member for Mount Ommaney and business representatives to discuss the closure of this off-ramp. An option was tabled at this meeting to delay the Bullockhead Street off-ramp closure.

The Department of Main Roads subsequently investigated the option through a constructability review and a safety audit of the option's designs.

On 5 June 2008, I met with Mrs Julie Attwood and business representatives again to discuss this issue. At this meeting I advised Main Roads had completed its investigations and the off-ramp will temporarily remain open until late 2009. However, there is a need to close the off-ramp from August 2008, for a period of a few months, to complete construction in the area and construct the new temporary off-ramp.

I am advised Brisbane City Council has previously committed to providing a second entry and exit point for Sumner by completing the missing link between Wolston Road and Wacol Station Road. Postponing the Bullockhead Street off-ramp closure gives council more time to confirm its plans for completion of the alternative access and exit point.

Main Roads has advised discussions with council are occurring to explore the option of the Ipswich Motorway Upgrade - Wacol to Darra project alliance team being commissioned by council to design and construct the Wolston Road extension to Wacol Station Road as a fast-track option.

Yours sincerely

Warren Pitt MP

Minister for Main Roads

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