



Premier of Queensland

For reply please quote: ES/SA - TF/11/30949 - DOC/11/200781

25 NOV 2011

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Thank you for your letter of 2 November 2011, enclosing petition No. 1719-11, regarding infrastructure planning and the Bruce Highway, presented by the Leader of the Opposition and the Member for Callide, Mr Jeff Seeney MP, and received by Parliament on 26 October 2011.

I am pleased to advise that the *Queensland Infrastructure Plan* was released on 3 November 2011 and is the largest and most forward-thinking infrastructure plan in the country.

My Government has mapped out nearly 1000 projects that are crucial to the future of the state over the next 20 years. It sets a new best-practice benchmark of infrastructure planning by any level of government, anywhere in Australia.

The plan include more than 90 new schools, nearly 70 new police stations, more than 30 new hospitals or hospital expansions, 7 city-wide transit networks and more than 60 projects upgrading the Bruce Highway.

The *Queensland Infrastructure Plan* includes state, local government and private sector projects and provides a pipeline of works across Queensland to cater for population growth, with a balanced and coordinated timetable for future investment. It follows the release in July 2011 of the *Queensland Infrastructure Plan for public consultation*, the *Bruce Highway Upgrade Strategy for public consultation* and the *Queensland Regionalisation Strategy for public consultation*. The consultation on these documents was led by 14 forums across Queensland between July and September, which were attended by over 400 people.



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This level of detailed policy and extensive consultation is in stark contrast to the state opposition's lack of any clear and committed infrastructure policy- they have no costed projects, no timelines and no plans for the future.

The *Bruce Highway Upgrade Strategy for public consultation* delivers a 20-year blueprint to progressively upgrade the highway. To turn this plan for the Bruce Highway into reality, the Queensland Government has identified 60 major investments to be delivered in the short, medium and long-term, in addition to 50 new overtaking sections to be delivered over the next 4 years

The *Bruce Highway Upgrade Strategy* delivers a long-term masterplan to improve the safety, reliability, capacity and flood immunity of the highway. The devastation caused earlier this year by extreme wet-weather events was testimony to how important this road corridor is to communities, industry and Queensland's economy.

Proposed investments in the Bruce Highway over the next 20 years will deliver:

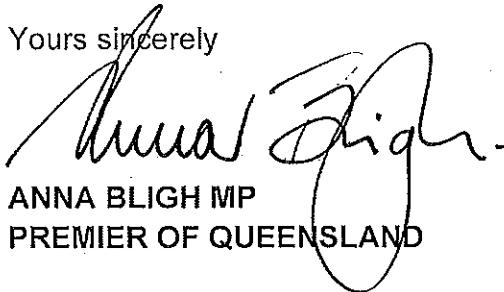
- duplication of up to 340 kilometres of highway, including improved road alignments
- 10 proposed ring roads, bypasses and deviations around key urban centres
- new and higher bridges to enable continued opening of the highway during flood inundation
- more overtaking lanes and rest areas to improve safety for drivers
- a range of general maintenance, widening, rehabilitation and minor upgrades (including at 'black spots') to improve the highway's overall safety performance.

I advise that the Queensland Government will continue to work closely with the Australian Government to agree a prioritised pipeline of investments to ensure the Bruce Highway is a modern transport corridor that will serve Queensland for many decades.

Notably; the state opposition has said that its own plan for the Bruce Highway would not be complete until 6 months after an election. Whilst my Government is getting on with the job of fixing the Bruce Highway, the state opposition has a plan to have a plan.

My Government is proactive in meeting the present and future infrastructure needs of our state, and our 20 year *Queensland Infrastructure Plan* and 20 year *Bruce Highway Upgrade Strategy* are just a part of our vision for the state. The views of the petitioners have been noted and I trust that this information has been of use. For more information, or a copy of these documents, please visit www.waytogrow.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely


ANNA BLIGH MP
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND