



Hon Jackie Trad MP

Deputy Premier

Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure,

Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade

Our ref: PET 2455-15

Your ref: 10.4 Petitions

15 OCT 2015

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Neil,

I refer to petition number 2455-15 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Chris Whiting MP, Member for Murrumba on 16 September 2015 about the Moreton Bay Rail project and the independent hydraulic review undertaken by Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation (SMEC).

The independent hydraulic review was commissioned by the Queensland Government in response to concerns raised by residents that the Moreton Bay Rail project may have impacted the level of flooding that resulted from the extreme rain event that hit South East Queensland on 1 May 2015.

SMEC, one of the top 100 international design firms, was appointed by the Queensland Government to undertake the complex and technical hydraulic review.

The government has now received the review and has made it publicly available on the Moreton Bay project website at www.moretonbayrail.qld.gov.au. This storm was unprecedented and extreme with more than 300mm of rain falling in less than three hours, making it very close to a 1 in 1000 year event.

I acknowledge the concerns raised by the petitioners regarding the existing relationship between the project contractor, Thiess, and SMEC. I can advise that in appointing SMEC to undertake the independent review, probity advice was sought from Qprocurement, the project's probity advisor and that probity protocols were put in place to maintain confidentiality and ensure independence of the review team.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads advise that as a contractor engaged by Thiess on the Moreton Bay Rail project, SMEC did not provide any hydrological or hydraulic services.

I also note the request from petitioners to expand the scope of the review to include the whole of the Moreton Bay Rail project construction corridor. While I understand the frustration of residents impacted by the flood event on 1 May 2015, the parameters for the Terms of Reference takes into consideration the targeted assistance provided by the Government directly following the event. I would encourage the petitioners to read the review in its entirety and consider SMEC's findings.

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Finally, I wish to advise that any further action regarding insurance claims will be based on individual circumstances, following consideration by both the Department of Transport and Main Roads and the project's insurer. Consequently, all formal legal correspondence directed to the State, should be posted or delivered to:

Office of the Crown Solicitor
Level 11, State Law Building
50 Ann Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jackie Trad', written over a faint circular stamp.

JACKIE TRAD MP
DEPUTY PREMIER
Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure,
Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade