



Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PET 33847

Your ref: A481143

18 SEP 2019

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition 3177-19, lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 20 August 2019 about re-routing the preferred Inland Rail corridor to a less impactful route.

The Inland Rail Project is an Australian Government initiative being delivered by the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC). Any alternative route suggestions and questions about the premise of the Inland Rail business case are best addressed by the federal Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development by email at clientservice@infrastructure.gov.au or telephone on 1800 075 001.

The Palaszczuk Government has provided in-principle support for the Inland Rail project. This support comes with a caveat that ARTC address concerns about the project that have been raised by those living and working on the proposed rail corridor. Those concerns include impacts on operating farms, loss of agricultural land, floodplain issues, noise and social impacts. Rural economies are already doing it tough, so the last thing those communities need is to lose valuable and productive land.

The project has the potential to deliver significant benefits to Queensland but there are outstanding issues that the ARTC has yet to address. I have written to the Australian Government advising them that the Palaszczuk Government will not sign any agreement for the project to proceed within Queensland until outstanding matters are resolved. The Queensland Government will ensure that ARTC complies with all legislative and policy requirements, especially those in relation to community and environmental impact issues, along the Inland Rail alignment in Queensland.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to ensuring Queensland gets the best outcome from the project, and that the Australian Government considers and responds appropriately to issues raised by Queenslanders.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A blue ink handwritten signature, appearing to be "Mark Bailey", written in a cursive style.

MARK BAILEY MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads