



## Minister for Transport and Main Roads

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Our ref: PET 25357

Your ref: 10.4 Petitions

19 March 2018

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition number 2859-18 lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 15 February 2018 by Mr Glen Elmes, former Member for Noosa, about the trial of a direct bus service between Noosa and the Sunshine Coast University Hospital (SCUH) at Birtinya.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to providing a reliable and integrated public transport network for the Sunshine Coast, and I appreciate the former Member for Noosa's feedback and suggestions on behalf of Noosa residents who rely on public transport services when travelling to the SCUH.

In January 2017, the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) implemented a number of improvements to bus services across the Sunshine Coast in the lead up to the public opening of the SCUH. The changes included a new direct route to the hospital from Maroochydore, as well as more services on existing routes, including across weekend periods. These changes allow people from across the Sunshine Coast region to access the new hospital by connecting to direct services at major interchanges, including Caloundra, Kawana and Maroochydore.

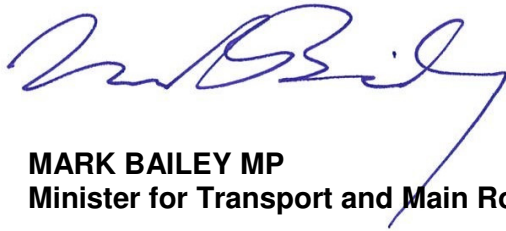
In planning these changes, TMR assessed the potential demand for a direct service between Noosa and the new hospital at Birtinya. As part of this assessment, TMR reviewed existing demand from Noosa to nearby Nambour General Hospital, and considered community feedback received from consultation sessions held across the region in 2016. On average, fewer than seven passengers per day travel on the direct service offered between Noosa and Nambour General Hospital. Additionally, TMR only received very limited feedback from the community for direct services to the SCUH. Based on these findings, it was determined that there was insufficient demand to justify the level of investment required to implement a direct service between Noosa and SCUH.

I am advised that a direct route, as proposed, would be required to travel a lengthy distance of almost 50 kilometres. With the availability of the same trip on existing services via interchange, I can confirm that the provision of a direct route between Noosa and the new SCUH is not being considered at this time.

Please be assured that the department will continue to monitor demand for travel to and from the hospital and will consider further improvements to services where this is warranted.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Bailey', with a long, sweeping underline that extends downwards and to the right.

**MARK BAILEY MP**  
**Minister for Transport and Main Roads**