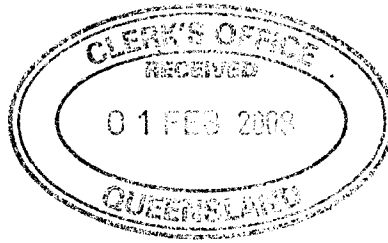




Hon John Mickel MP
Member for Logan



**Queensland
Government**

Our ref: MC32237

Your ref: 897-07/880-07/888-07/890-07

**Minister for Transport, Trade,
Employment and Industrial Relations**

30 JAN 2008

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to Petition No. 890-07 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Ms Carolyn Male MP, Member for Glass House on 23 August 2007, regarding the Beerwah open level crossing elimination project.

Planning for this project was initiated by Queensland Transport together with the Department of Main Roads and QR Limited in December 2006. QR-TrackStar Alliance was engaged to undertake planning activity.

As part of the planning phase for this project, QR-TrackStar Alliance initially identified 12 possible open level crossing elimination options for initial evaluation, in order to select a smaller number of options for further community consultation. The initial evaluation took account of transport, land use, cost effectiveness, environmental impact, socio-economic and engineering factors.

The project committee which comprised representatives from the Department of Main Roads, QR Limited, Caloundra City Council, QR-TrackStar Alliance and Queensland Transport selected two options for further community consultation following initial evaluation of possible options. These were a road underpass at Mawhinney Road, Beerwah and a road overpass at a more southerly location from the existing Beerwah open level crossing.

A community consultation program was undertaken on the two selected options from 8 May to 8 June 2007. Consultation activities comprised distribution of a newsletter, posting of public notices, information displays (both staffed and unstaffed), distribution of questionnaires and analysis of responses, and a free call hotline with information displayed on the QR Limited website.

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A total of 1195 written responses were received to circulated questionnaires. Of these respondents, 86% favoured the southern overpass option. Subsequently the Government endorsed a southern overpass option as the final design which incorporates community requests for the extension of road connections.

The former Minister for Transport and Main Roads announced the Government's endorsement of the southern option in Beerwah on 5 September 2007 and early works have already commenced.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

JOHN MICKEL MP
Minister for Transport, Trade,
Employment and Industrial Relations