



Hon. Paul Lucas MP



Queensland
Government

Minister for
Transport and Main Roads

Our Ref MC3678b

29 MAR 2004

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Re: Petition lodged 25 November 2003 about the level of public transport in southern suburbs of Cairns

I refer to the petition lodged on behalf of Ms Nyree Bell by the Honourable Warren Pitt MP, Member for Mulgrave in Parliament on 25 November 2003 about the level of public transport in the southern suburbs of Cairns.

You may be aware that this petition was forwarded to the Honourable Steve Bredhauer, former Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads for reply. As Mr Bredhauer retired following the recent state election, I have now been appointed as the new Minister for Transport and Main Roads.

The Government is committed to providing accessible public transport in regional Queensland. An additional \$3m has been allocated to provide new services and buses in Cairns. This includes new services for Edmonton and the development of a program of bus priority measures to improve service efficiency.

I have been advised that Queensland Transport (QT) is currently undertaking a route review of the Sunbus network in Cairns including the southern suburbs of Cairns.

The final report of the Cairns Integrated Public Transport Study (CIPTS) also includes strategies to address the lack of accessible buses to the southern suburbs and the lack of express bus services between Gordonvale and Cairns. It is anticipated the CIPTS final report will be presented to Cabinet in early 2004.

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I am further advised that planning for future transport needs in southern Cairns was identified in the Southern Cairns Integrated Land Use and Transport Study. That study identified a range of strategies to provide for southern Cairns long term needs. QT and the Department of Main Roads are implementing those strategies through the increase to six lanes of the Bruce Highway and undertaking the CIPTS.

Yours sincerely

PAUL LUCAS MP
Minister for Transport Main Roads