



Hon. Paul Lucas MP

Our ref: MC25503

Your ref: 609-06

- 3 NOV 2006



**Queensland
Government**

**Minister for
Transport and Main Roads**

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

Dear Mr Laurie

**Re: Petition to the Legislative Assembly - No 609-06
Nielsens Road Interchange upgrade**

I refer to a petition lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Michael Caltabiano, former Member for Chatsworth on 11 October 2006, about the Nielsens Road interchange upgrade.

The Queensland Government has committed \$392m over five years for the first stage of an eight-year upgrade of the Pacific Motorway through Logan City and on the Gold Coast south of Nerang, which includes related interchange improvements. However, to progress the projects to construction, a commitment to a matching contribution from the federal government is urgently required.

I am advised that the Department of Main Roads is continuing the planning and design for the upgrade of the capacity constrained interchanges and the widening of the motorway to at least six lanes over 23km from Nerang to the Stewart Road interchange at Currumbin. Planning is also proceeding on the section through Logan City between the Gateway and Logan Motorways.

I am also advised that the Queensland Government is ready to call tenders for the upgrading of the \$35m high priority Nerang South (Nielsens Road) interchange. Construction could be scheduled to commence in early 2007, subject to a matching federal funding commitment. Resumptions of impacted properties have been completed and construction could be completed within 24 months.

It is highly desirable to take advantage of the construction of this interchange now, utilising cost efficiencies and significant construction program time savings by delivering ahead of the major works packages and providing early benefits to the community.

I wrote to my colleague the Honourable Warren Truss MP on 19 April 2006, seeking a commitment to matching federal funding for the \$1.5bn preliminary estimated cost of the works. The response I received on 23 May 2006 suggested a deferral of discussions on this issue until after the completion of the strategy for the Sydney – Brisbane AusLink Network corridor, in the lead up to the development of the next AusLink Network program.

I am in the process of making further representations to my federal colleagues for a commitment to matching federal funding, stressing the urgent need for the Pacific Motorway and interchange upgrade works.

As soon as the federal government confirms its commitment to match the state government contribution, Main Roads will liaise with the Commonwealth Department of Transport and Regional Services to establish a detailed proposal for timing, scope and cost of this important work.

Yours sincerely

PAUL LUCAS MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads