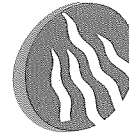




Hon John Mickel MP
Member for Logan



**Queensland
Government**

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

Our ref: MC39227

Your ref: 1136-08
1137-08
1138-08
1139-08

- 1 DEC 2008

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Cnr Alice and George Streets
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petitions lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Ms Fiona Simpson MP, Member for Maroochydore on 8 October 2008 regarding the CoastConnect project. The Honourable Warren Pitt MP, Minister for Main Roads and Local Government forwarded the petitions to me for consideration and direct response.

Queensland Transport is working with the community to develop plans for a better public transport system on the Sunshine Coast, whose resident and tourist populations are expected to nearly double by 2026. In addition to this, the Sunshine Coast region has the lowest rate of public transport use in South East Queensland. We need to take steps to manage worsening traffic congestion to ensure the coast's unique lifestyle and environment are maintained.

The CoastConnect project is in an early phase of concept planning. The aim of this planning phase has been to consult with the community on a draft proposal and then use community feedback, results of ongoing technical studies and more detailed traffic modelling to refine the plans. The draft concept options represent an initial view of possible transport solutions required to cater for future growth and demand.

I want to assure local residents that Queensland Transport is listening to the community. The project team has met individually with many small business operators and local residents on site along Aerodrome Road and Alexandra Parade. These meetings are ongoing and project team members are continuing to gather feedback and talk to potentially impacted stakeholders.

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I am advised that the project team is investigating opportunities for revisions to the plans at a number of locations, including Aerodrome Road and Alexandra Parade. Moreover, the project team will be meeting with a newly formed community reference group about their concerns about Alexandra Parade and Aerodrome Road. More detailed work will take place over the coming months, including the preparation of a Concept Design and Impact Management Plan, which will examine ways the project team can minimise the impacts and maximise the benefits for the local community.

Queensland Transport has said from the start that these were draft plans and that the department was keen to work in partnership with the community to develop solutions that fit in with the local area. The refined plans and a draft Concept Design and Impact Management Plan are expected to be released for further community consultation in early 2009.

Yours sincerely



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