



Hon Rachel Nolan MP

Member for Ipswich

Our ref: MC44341

Your ref: Petitions



**Queensland
Government**

Minister for Transport

16 FEB 2010

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4001

Dear Mr Laurie *Neil*

I refer to petition number 1264-09 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Dr Mark Robinson MP, Member for Cleveland on 2 September 2009 about the use of land at 26-36 Napier Street, Birkdale.

The vacant land located at 26-36 Napier Street, Birkdale was rezoned from Public Purposes (Railway) to Residential B by the Redland City Council on 15/10/2002 and purchased recently by the Department of Communities. It is intended to be used to develop a proposed new social housing complex in general accordance with the Redland City Council town plan.

The project was on public notification from 29 September 2009 to 21 October 2009 and plans relating to the project were available to the public during this time. I am advised that this project has been approved.

I am pleased to advise that as part of the Bligh Government's election commitment to increase parking at railway stations, funding has been allocated for more car parking facilities at Birkdale rail station. An initial concept design has recently been prepared for the development of approximately 40 additional car parking spaces at the station, which would bring the new total to almost 170 car parking spaces. I have also been advised that there is additional land located west of the current car park which is owned by Queensland Rail and could be used for park 'n' ride facilities in the future.

The Government has made a significant number of improvements to public transport in the Redlands region. Some recent achievements include:

- 42 new buses and 16 replacement buses with 44 of these being low floor, air-conditioned buses- 60 per cent increase in fleet.
- \$6.4 million spent on new services in the Eastern region- 142 per cent increase in expenditure.
- Expanded NightLink route 250 to Victoria Point
- Additional capacity for 10 500 customers on the Cleveland line since March 2008.

I would also make the point that currently Redlands City Council does not contribute any funding to public transport in your region. You may be aware that some local governments in South East Queensland directly invest in public transport services. Brisbane spends \$73M on bus and ferry

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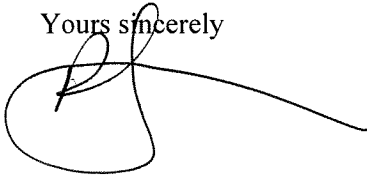
services every year, the equivalent of \$178 per ratepayer. The Gold Coast has introduced a transport levy of \$79 per ratepayer, and the Sunshine Coast has introduced a levy of \$20 per ratepayer in this year's budget.

If Redlands City Council were to contribute the same level of funding per ratepayer as Brisbane City Council this would generate over \$11M in extra funding to spend on more public transport services and infrastructure.

The Government would welcome any future contributions from the Redlands Council to help improve public transport for residents in the Redlands region. Council contributions could be used for any number of projects including extra bus services, extra car parks or even more bike lockers at railway stations.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Nolan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

RACHEL NOLAN MP
Minister for Transport