



Hon Rachel Nolan MP
Member for Ipswich



**Queensland
Government**

Our ref: MC53156

Minister for Transport

Your ref: Petitions

24 NOV 2010

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition numbers 1560-10 and 1529-10 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Ms Fiona Simpson MP, Member for Maroochydore on 27 October 2010, about the Northern Busway extension from Kedron to Bracken Ridge.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads is undertaking planning to identify and preserve a corridor for the future Northern Busway between Kedron and Bracken Ridge.

The first round of community consultation was held between November 2009 and January 2010. During this round of consultation, the community said it was important the busway:

- provide services to key community facilities, including The Prince Charles Hospital, Westfield Chermside and Aspley Hypermarket
- minimise impacts to Lutwyche Cemetery and Bradbury Park
- ensure local bus services link in with the busway
- keep to existing road corridors where possible
- maintain access to local streets
- minimise impacts to people's homes and businesses.

A full report on the first round of community consultation is available on the department's website. This feedback guided the technical investigations carried out to develop the draft busway corridor options.

The second stage of community consultation on the draft busway corridor options was held between 20 September and 29 October 2010. The feedback received during this round of consultation is still being analysed and a report will be produced and available on the department's website. Community feedback will be one of the factors taken into consideration in the development of a preferred busway corridor.

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The current busway corridor options follow beside the major arterial roads, including Gympie Road, Rode Road, through the Prince Charles Hospital land (state owned), before reaching the proposed Chermside station. The Prince Charles Hospital precinct is a significant employer and a major destination with over 4000 staff and 30 000 visitors each month. Currently most of these trips to the hospital are made via private vehicles. In fact, The Prince Charles Hospital has the lowest proportion of trips made to it by public transport of any major hospital in Brisbane City.

The Prince Charles Hospital is the only major hospital in Brisbane that is not served by a rail station or busway station. Demand for travel to this precinct is expected to continue to grow as the hospital expands its services to meet the needs of the growing northern Brisbane population. Experience at the Mater, Royal Brisbane, Royal Children's, Princess Alexandra and the Wesley Hospitals has shown when convenient, fast and frequent access to public transport is provided at hospitals, both staff and visitors will use it. In addition to this the proposed route is better aligned with the Council's Neighbourhood Plan which proposes medium to high density in between Gympie Road and the Prince Charles Hospital.

The Lord Mayor has proposed that the busway continue along Gympie Road however he has not detailed whether he wishes this to be along the existing road or whether businesses would need to be resumed along the Gympie Road frontage. Furthermore the Lord Mayor hasn't ruled out taking lanes off the already busy Gympie Road to dedicate to the busway. A busway going down Gympie Road to Chermside will impact local businesses, residential properties and community services such as Chermside Kedron Community Church.

The department will consult with the community on the preferred corridor and preferred station locations in mid-2011.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rachel Nolan', written over a circular stamp or seal.

RACHEL NOLAN MP
Minister for Transport