



Hon Paul Lucas MP



Queensland
Government

Our ref: MC11/1442
LG/11/0966

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

LAID UPON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE	
No.: 531174305	6 MAY 2011
MP: Hon P Lucas	
Clerk's Signature: <i>M. Laurie</i>	

Deputy Premier and Attorney-General
Minister for Local Government and
Special Minister of State

- 5 MAY 2011

E-MAILED
5 May 11

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for forwarding petition No. 1662-11 which was received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 5 April 2011.

The petition seeks support for building an economically and socially sustainable community through planning and investment to provide the Southern Moreton Bay Islands (SMBI) with an efficient, affordable and ecologically sound transport system on and between the islands, as well as to the mainland.

The petition notes that inappropriate subdivision decisions made prior to 1973 by the then State Government, before the Southern Moreton Bay Islands became the responsibility of the Redland City Council (Council), have impacted on Council's ability to address many of the infrastructure issues facing it since it has taken responsibility for the islands.

I can understand the concerns people would have about the nature of development on the Southern Moreton Bay Islands which surely must stand as a low point of the Bjelke-Petersen National and Liberal Party Government, of which the current taxpayer, and ratepayer, has been left to pick up the pieces.

The subdivision of the Southern Moreton Bay Islands was undertaken in the 1960s and early 1970s without any Local Government planning control and these actions demonstrated scant regard for what is now considered to be good planning and land development practice. Council to its credit, has been progressively trying to undo some of the past damage by buying back or exchanging land that was inappropriately sub-divided.

In 1996, the Council and the Queensland Government commenced the jointly-funded Southern Moreton Bay Islands Planning Study, with the goal of addressing these long standing planning and infrastructure issues. This study led to the Council developing and implementing a program of targeted actions designed to address the legacy left by the former National and Liberal Party Government. These actions included a voluntary land acquisition / land exchange program and a land amalgamation subsidy scheme.

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In addition, I am advised that Council is currently reviewing the 2002 Integrated Local Transport Plan for Southern Moreton Bay Islands. A discussion paper, *Southern Moreton Bay Island Integrated Local Transport Review*, was issued for public consultation and submissions closed on 18 February 2011. The Southern Moreton Bay Islands Integrated Local Transport Review investigated transport options to, from and between the islands. Underpinning the review is a mobility study, a barge study and a Social and Economic Impact Assessment. I understand a meeting is to be held in late May 2011 between key government agencies and other stakeholders to further progress issues from the review. Should petitioners wish to discuss the matter or obtain further information about the Transport Plan review, they should contact the Council's Infrastructure Planning Group on 3829 8999.

I am further advised that Translink is currently holding discussions with Council about additional go-card purchase machines located at the mainland ferry terminals as well as planning for an upgrade of bus services from the ferry terminal at Weinam Creek to increase public transport options for Southern Moreton Bay Island residents.

I am also advised that Council has undertaken a review of the Southern Moreton Bay Islands Strategic Planning requirements or 'SMBI Plus Strategy' and has presented the capital funding requirements to the Southern Moreton Bay Islands Senior Officers Working Group for review. This working group was created to advise Council on strategic planning issues tied to the South Moreton Bay Islands and includes Senior Executive representatives from State Government agencies and Council. This working group has met on numerous occasions and has undertaken several site visits to the islands to consider specific infrastructure concerns, including transport. The SMBI Plus Strategy is due for consideration by the Council shortly.

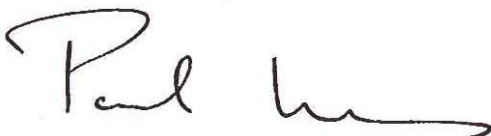
The decision to live in the beautiful natural environment of the Southern Moreton Bay Islands is a decision, not unlike country lifestyle living, that residents take, bearing in mind some of the issues outlined above, including transport issues.

Having said that, the Southern Moreton Bay Islands residents who access the Translink transport network, subsidised to the extent of \$1.38 billion per annum by the taxpayer, do get the benefit of the system when they connect to it during their travels.

I am advised that the Bay Island Transit System (BITS) receives revenue foregone in the form of concession top-ups for ferry service, which in 2009-10 equated to \$1 million. Finally, I note that the Queensland Government has committed around \$1.8 million towards the purchase of two existing vessels and for a further two to be delivered by 2015.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



PAUL LUCAS MP

Deputy Premier and Attorney-General,

Minister for Local Government and Special Minister of State