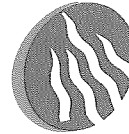




Hon John Mickel MP
Member for Logan



**Queensland
Government**

Our ref: MC39301

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

- 1 DEC 2008

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to a petition lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Ronan Lee MP, Member for Indooroopilly on 7 October 2008 regarding public transport options for Brisbane's western suburbs as an alternative to the proposed Kenmore Bypass. The Honourable Warren Pitt MP, Minister for Main Roads and Local Government, forwarded the petition to me for consideration and direct response.

Queensland Transport is currently undertaking the Western Brisbane Transport Network Investigation, which was established to guide the development of the transport network for western Brisbane for the next 20 years and beyond. It investigates all transport modes including public transport, walking, cycling, roads and freight. The outcomes will guide all levels of government in implementing an integrated network. This investigation is separate from the Kenmore Bypass Study being undertaken by the Department of Main Roads.

On 3 April 2008, the Queensland Government announced 15 possible transport network improvement options being considered by this investigation, including new tunnels, public transport options and new roads on preserved corridors.

There are seven public transport corridor options to improve bus and/or rail services, with three of the road-based options also providing opportunities for improved public transport. All options provide opportunities for improved walking and cycling provision.

The investigation is looking at ways to continue the transformation of Brisbane's bus system to provide frequent, reliable services to the Brisbane central business district and major activity centres that are not or cannot be serviced by the rail network.

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A possible public transport corridor from Kenmore to the central business district is being considered to improve the frequency and reliability of bus services on Moggill Road and Coronation Drive. This would be made possible by the proposed Toowong to Kelvin Grove corridor which would reduce traffic on Coronation Drive and Milton Road by 30 to 40 percent and provide an opportunity to prioritise bus services on Moggill Road and Coronation Drive. Similarly, a Kenmore Bypass would provide a solution for local traffic issues on Moggill Road and provide an opportunity to prioritise bus services along Moggill Road.

The Kenmore to the central business district option is also being considered to improve the frequency and reliability of bus services to Indooroopilly railway station and support the development of an interchange hub, which is being considered as part of a possible rail corridor upgrade.

Rail is vitally important given its ability to move large numbers of people and reduce traffic on roads. The bus options would extend the reach of the rail network by providing frequent and reliable feeder services to priority rail stations and promoting sustainable land use changes along key public transport corridors. One of the projects under investigation is the upgrading of the Ipswich to Bowen Hills rail line, which includes improved Park'n'Ride facilities. The upgrade would provide a high capacity rail link between Ipswich and Brisbane, support an Indooroopilly bus/rail hub and reduce traffic on the Ipswich Motorway and the Centenary Highway. The investigation is also exploring a 'Turn Up and Go' strategy with no need for timetables during peak periods.

Community consultation was an integral part of the investigation. Consultation on the fifteen transport network improvement options closed on 31 May 2008 to allow the Investigation Team time to prepare its findings and report back to the Queensland Government. The Queensland Government is considering its decision on the preferred western Brisbane transport network strategy.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



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