



Hon Stirling Hinchliffe MP
Member for Stafford



**Queensland
Government**

Minister for Infrastructure and Planning

Our ref: 09/16360

22 JUL 2009

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Email: ClerksOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Neil

I refer to your representations about petition number 1233-09 about construction impacts from the Gold Coast Desalination Project. I apologise for the delay in responding.

I acknowledge that many landholders in the vicinity of the project have had to demonstrate considerable patience while construction works were progressed.

I am advised that the Gold Coast Desalination Alliance (GCDA), the consortium of companies delivering the desalination project, has worked closely with the community and residents with properties along the pipeline since construction began in 2007. GCDA has made all reasonable attempts to avoid damaging property and pre-construction and post-construction condition surveys were undertaken along the pipeline.

In terms of damage to properties due to the project works, GCDA has been progressively undertaking repairs to properties as construction works were completed across sections of the pipeline where it was determined that the project was at fault for damage incurred.

With the exception of three new claims that are currently under review, GCDA has investigated all claims made on damage to property and property owners have been contacted about the outcomes. Where damage has occurred as a result of construction activities, GCDA is committed to reinstating the affected property to a condition as good as, or better than, before the damage occurred.

It is acknowledged that from the landholder's perspective the findings of GCDA's review of claims may, in some individual cases, be seen as unsatisfactory. To that end, landholders who wish to pursue the matter further have been advised to obtain professional advice to determine an appropriate course of action.

In terms of roads impacted by the construction works, Gold Coast City Council has identified a small number of damaged roads along the pipeline route. Some damage identified is due to normal wear and tear and has been agreed as not being due to the project's construction activities.

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Council has been contracted by GCDA to undertake the road repairs and will ensure all roads are reinstated to their previous condition, or better. It is the project's preference that Council commence and complete the road repairs shortly.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stirling Hinchliffe', written in a cursive style.

Stirling Hinchliffe MP
Minister for Infrastructure and Planning