



Hon Phil Reeves MP
Member for Mansfield



**Minister for Child Safety
and Minister for Sport**

Your reference: Petitions 1266-09
Our reference: ML/09/2708—COM08092.2009

10 DEC 2009

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 11 November 2009 concerning Petition No. 1266-09 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly regarding public car parking at Skilled Park.

The size and position of the site on which Skilled Park is located was determined by the Gold Coast City Council. Given the size of the site and acknowledging its position within a mixed use urban precinct, the architect's brief required the venue to be designed on the premise of promoting the use of public transport by patrons attending events at the Stadium.

In implementing this design philosophy, extensive consultation occurred between representatives of the Gold Coast City Council, Queensland Police Service, Department of Main Roads and Translink as well as taxi/limousine and bus associations servicing the area.

It was the clear view of all stakeholders—and site analysis confirmed this view—that public transport was the only way people could arrive and exit the venue efficiently.

The existing road infrastructure does not have the capacity to allow for the efficient movement of event related traffic in addition to traffic generated by the commercial and retail activities of the Robina Town Centre, local residents and the Robina Hospital adjacent to the Stadium. These considerations, taken into account by stakeholders, supported the decision to adopt the public transport approach for event attendance.

The petitioners may care to note that under the conditions of the Gold Coast City Council development approval for Skilled Park, the venue must activate a traffic and transport management plan for events with a crowd in excess of 5,000. The traffic and transport management plan for Skilled Park includes a comprehensive 'Park 'n Ride' shuttle service from Firth Park, Mudgeeraba. Firth Park is a 10 minute shuttle bus trip to the venue and is popular with patrons who wish to park as close as possible to the venue.

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Alternatively, train services allow patrons to alight within approximately 400 metres of the venue.

The public transport system provides an efficient and cost effective way of transporting patrons to and from the venue. Patrons are able to be cleared from the precinct within one hour of an event finishing and this is consistent with the benchmarks and levels of service set for patrons attending events at both Suncorp Stadium and the Brisbane Cricket Ground.

Since Skilled Park opened in January 2008, almost 90% of patrons attending all events at the venue have used the public transport options.

On the basis of the assessment that road infrastructure within the venue precinct cannot meet the demands of both commuter and event day traffic, a parking option for the public within closer proximity to the venue as proposed is not a viable option at this time.

I can assure the petitioners that Stadiums Queensland, as owner of Skilled Park, will continue to liaise with Gold Coast City Council representatives regarding future planning for the precinct surrounding the Stadium and, where possible, seek to include park and ride sites within close proximity to the venue for the benefit of patrons, particularly those with young families.

If you require any further information or assistance in relation to this matter, please contact Mr Ian Whitehead, General Manager Operations, Stadiums Queensland, on 3008 6105.

I thank the petitioners for taking the time to bring this matter to the attention of the Queensland Government.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phil Reeves". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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