



**Hon Craig Wallace MP**  
Member for Thuringowa



**Minister for Main Roads, Fisheries  
and Marine Infrastructure**

Our ref: PP1762-11

Your ref: Petitions

**- 6 OCT 2011**

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition number 1762-11, lodged with the Legislative Assembly by the Honourable Vicky Darling MP, Minister for Environment and Member for Sandgate, on 6 September 2011 about supporting Option B for the Deagon Deviation as part of the Gateway Motorway North Project.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads has recently completed a draft plan to upgrade the Gateway Motorway between Nudgee and the Bruce Highway. The upgrade proposes to widen the motorway from four to six lanes from Nudgee to the Deagon Deviation, as well as widen the Deagon Deviation between Depot Road and Bracken Ridge Road to provide two lanes in each direction.

There are two options for the upgrade of the Deagon Deviation as part of the Gateway Motorway North Project. Both options function the same when travelling north or south along the Deagon Deviation but have differing impacts on the Deagon Wetlands and the Deagon Racecourse.

Community consultation on the draft plan closed 28 July 2011 and the project team are now undertaking further technical and environmental analysis to refine the draft plan.


As part of on-going planning for the project, detailed ecological studies are being undertaken so that impacts to the Deagon Wetlands will be minimised as much as possible under both options. The department is also working with the owners and users of the Deagon Racecourse with an aim to accommodate current uses and future proposals as necessary.

Additionally, the department is undertaking environmental investigations, such as flora and fauna surveys, to assist in preparing an Environmental Assessment Report (EAR). The EAR aims to investigate both the natural and social environment and cultural heritage issues associated with the project. It will also aim to determine the environmental impacts the project may have, and where possible, develop suitable mitigation measures, for example offset planting or bushland rehabilitation. The preferred design needs to be well defined before specific mitigation measures are determined.

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Consideration will be given to all feedback received during the community consultation period. This petition, along with the results of the further investigations, will also be considered to help determine the preferred plan. The preferred plan is scheduled to be released to the community for comment early 2012.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Wallace', enclosed within a hand-drawn oval shape.

Craig Wallace MP  
**Minister for Main Roads, Fisheries  
and Marine Infrastructure**