



Hon Craig Wallace MP
Member for Thuringowa

Our ref: PP1756-11

Your ref: Petitions



Queensland
Government

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

1 1 NOV 2011

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to a petition number 1756-11 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Dr Mark Robinson MP, Member for Cleveland on 11 October 2011 about Samford Road and Wardell Street, Enoggera intersection upgrade concept plan.

The proposed upgrade of the Samford Road and Wardell Street intersection will achieve improved traffic flow, safety and reduce rat running in the local area.

I am advised by the Department of Transport and Main Roads that residents in the local area can expect a reduction in congestion of up to 70%. Through our extensive community engagement we are working to deliver this fantastic upgrade whilst minimising the impact on residents, businesses, and stakeholders.

Preliminary investigations, show the estimated budget to deliver the concept plan is \$90m. The project design continues to develop based on community feedback. I can assure residents that the department will continue to plan with a focus on delivering improvements in line with the final level of investment, the department will be happy to provide more accurate cost estimates during the process.

I can further advise that the department is continuing extensive engagement with members of the community as part of the Samford Road and Wardell Street upgrade. It is with great confidence that I can make the assurance that the department is doing everything to the extent that it can to provide residents with information and assistance.

The first round of consultation was undertaken between 21 July and 2 September 2011. This round of community engagement saw specialised officers meet with community members and respond to over 850 enquiries. To date the project team has distributed more than 40 000 newsletters to residents in the local area. Another newsletter will be provided later this year.

Not only are we making an extensive effort to engage with the community during this project, we are taking their feedback and applying it directly to the development of the concept plan.

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While we have been engaging directly with the community about the concept of the project, I can also advise that specific attention is being given to residents potentially affected by resumptions.

I am advised that the project has been designed to minimise impacts on private properties. However I do understand that this can be stressful time for residents and I am further advised by the department that dedicated counseling services are able to be accessed by affected residents at no cost to them.

To assist residents, the department has also engaged in direct communication with each and every potentially affected property owner. Our dedicated community engagement officers are working with these property owners to give them the best available advice regarding any resumptions.

The department has undertaken the process of developing the concept plan while in discussion with the local community in an open and transparent process. I am further advised that the department has offered independent valuations for all owners of properties which may be resumed as part of this project.

As previously stated I am conscious of the effects that project planning can have on property owners and assure you that the department gives careful consideration to minimise the impacts on property owners. I can advise that the department is acting strictly in accordance within the appropriate framework set out in both the The Transport Planning and Coordination Act 1994 and the Acquisition of Land Act 1967.

With regard to referring this matter to the Ombudsman, I am assured that the actions of the project team have been and remain appropriate and above the current legislative requirements I therefore do not propose to adopt this course.

I appreciate the significant feedback received during the community consultation period and in the time since. I encourage the community to continue to give the project team feedback. The department's community engagement specialists continue to be available for any resident who wishes to contact them. They are available on a toll free number, 1800 045 348 and also on email, samford.wardell@tmr.qld.gov.au.

I trust this information is of assistance.

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**