



The Honourable Scott Emerson MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PP1870-12

Your ref: Petitions

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15 JUN 2012

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to a petition number 1870-12 lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 16 February 2012, about the proposed Park Ridge Connector requesting that it be removed from the *South East Queensland Regional Plan* and *Connecting SEQ 2031*.

I am advised that the *South East Queensland Regional Plan* locates future population south of the Logan Motorway in a number of new communities and development areas. The plan includes a future 'strategic road network' connection, now known as the Park Ridge Connector, extending the Gateway Motorway south of the Logan Motorway and has been identified in public documents since before 2005. This is consistent with the plan's policy to 'provide a multi-modal transport network to connect established urban areas to new broad-hectare and employment areas'. *Connecting SEQ 2031* is the Department of Transport and Main Roads' transport policy response to the *South East Queensland Regional Plan*. The *South East Queensland Regional Plan* and *Connecting SEQ 2031* require planning for the Park Ridge Connector to be progressed accordingly.

I am also advised that in addition to the above mentioned public documents, the Park Ridge Connector has continued to be identified conceptually in other publicly available state government documents including:

- Queensland Infrastructure Plan
- Mount Lindesay Beaudesert Strategic Transport Network Investigation.

I am further advised the purpose of the Park Ridge Connector is to provide major new growth communities, including Park Ridge, Greater Flagstone and Yarrabilba, with access to the motorway network, thereby connecting them to jobs and services across the rest of South East Queensland. Furthermore, the new connection will provide improved freight access from Bromelton and the Park Ridge Enterprise Precinct to the Port of Brisbane, the Pacific Motorway and the Ipswich Motorway, alleviating over-reliance on the Mount Lindesay Highway.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads advises planning and consultation was undertaken to locate the Park Ridge Connector from a concept to a defined corridor. The planning undertaken to date has identified a viable corridor for preservation within the Park Ridge urban development area that is supported by Logan City Council to inform land use planning proceeding. Current traffic predictions indicate that the route is not expected to be needed until 2031 and is ultimately predicated to carry up to 70 000 vehicles per day.

I note the petitioners concerns in relation to this potential urban arterial/freight route on the environment. I am also advised that at the start of the Park Ridge Connector corridor planning project in 2010, the department recognised the area of interest contained a wide variety of environmental values of significance and a comprehensive methodology was prepared and used to guide environmental investigations for the project.

I am further advised that environmental investigations of the preferred corridor will continue to guide refinement of planning and design, green infrastructure and mitigation. Current investigations identify that potential environmental impacts of this project can be satisfactorily mitigated or offset, as is the case for other new corridor planning initiatives in South East Queensland.

I am also advised that public consultation was undertaken from September 2010 to December 2011 as part of the Park Ridge Connector Corridor Preservation Study. During this process a Community Stakeholder Reference Group helped identify a refined area of interest for public display within which a future urban arterial/freight route could be located.

During this time the department sought feedback with the community and met with key stakeholders including environmental groups to understand their views about environmental, social and economic factors. The community identified green spaces within the refined area of interest as having high environmental value.

The planning project therefore proposes preservation of the Park Ridge Connector corridor by limiting development in the corridor. This will support land use planning and development of the area continuing as envisaged in the *South East Queensland Regional Plan 2009-2031* by providing certainty that a long-term transport corridor solution is available to enable future development.

Yours sincerely



Scott Emerson MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads