



The Honourable Scott Emerson MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PET 10834 / MEX-13-352

Your ref: Petitions

3 MAY 2013

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to a petition number 2090-13 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Steve Davies MP, Member for Capalaba on 16 April 2013 about a request for a noise barrier for Railway Parade and adjacent streets at Thorneside.

As you would understand, residents living close to the railway line can often experience varying levels of noise. Queensland Rail Limited has implemented a Network Noise Management Plan, which guides its response to higher noise levels experienced by residents adjacent to the rail corridors.

This plan includes a prioritisation process to construct noise barriers. The prioritisation process ensures finite funding is allocated in an appropriate and fair manner, in communities which are most adversely affected.

Queensland Rail Limited's prioritisation process takes into consideration:

- the number of homes immediately adjoining and adjacent to the rail corridor, to determine the level of resident exposure to rail noise levels
- the type of track infrastructure in the area, for instance, tight curves and steel bridges can generate greater noise
- the utilisation of the track, such as frequency, duration and type of traffic. Diesel freight trains are noisier than electric passenger trains and therefore freight lines are given a higher priority.

Unfortunately, Railway Parade and adjacent streets at Thorneside do not fulfil the criteria for a priority construction of a noise barrier. This is due to the following:

- only passenger trains utilise the track, which are electric and generally quieter. There are no diesel freight trains operating along that part of the Cleveland line
- the adjacent part of the Cleveland line is a single track only, compared to other parts of the network which have up to four parallel tracks
- there is no track infrastructure in the area which might contribute to excess noise, such as steel bridges or tight curves in the track.

While there are no current plans to deliver a noise barrier along Railway Parade, Queensland Rail reviews the suitability of communities across South East Queensland on an ongoing basis, ensuring that noise barriers are delivering in areas of highest need.

Please be assured that Queensland Rail Limited is committed to minimising its impact on surrounding residents wherever possible and takes all reasonable and practical steps to limit the noise from its operations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Scott Emerson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Scott Emerson MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads