



The Honourable Scott Emerson MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PET 11857

Your ref: 10.4 Petitions

13 MAR 2014

Level 15 Capital Hill Building
85 George Street Brisbane 4000
GPO Box 2644 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3237 1111
Facsimile +61 7 3224 2493
Email tmr@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Website www.tmr.qld.gov

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to a petition number 2161-13 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Ms Jackie Trad MP, Member for South Brisbane on 11 February 2014 about accessibility at Graceville, Sherwood and Chelmer stations.

The State purchases Rail services from Queensland Rail under a Rail Transport Service Contract (Rail TSC). As such, the State through Queensland Rail's capital program supported under the Rail TSC is committed, in a programmed and financially responsible manner, to maximising accessibility to its services and facilities so that ultimately, customers with special needs can enjoy an equivalent level of access to Queensland Rail services and facilities.

Unfortunately, the task of delivering upgrades aimed at improving access to stations has been made difficult by the significant debt left by the previous Labor government. Nevertheless, Queensland Rail is revisiting its capital plan on an ongoing basis, to ensure it utilises the available resources to maximise the efficiency, reliability and accessibility outcomes for all rail commuters. A priority pathway for station upgrades has been determined and is based on comprehensive investigation of location, accessibility, safety, security, heritage and funding.

Graceville Station has been prioritised for an accessibility upgrade, one of the key factors in prioritising Graceville Station is the lack of accessibility at the surrounding stations. Work has commenced on developing the scope of work for the upgrade and conceptual design options. Queensland Rail will have certainty of the scope of work at the completion of the design phase, including the specific features that will improve accessibility at the station.

Queensland Rail will install new lifts from the subway to each of the platforms. The feasibility of providing the following is also being explored:

- gentle ramp access to the subway from both Honour Avenue and Appel Street
- safety measures for people with vision impairments (such as tactile platform edge hazard pavers)
- upgrading the toilets to make these facilities more accessible
- improving lighting and security features
- providing enhanced signage.

This work is expected to be completed in 2016.

In September 2013 customer information screens were installed on Platforms 1 and 2 and in the subway. A 'Next Train Information' terminal was installed on Platforms 3 and 4 along with public address facilities including a hearing aid loop. On the weekend of 13 to 14 April 2013 Sherwood Station had maintenance work completed. In September 2013 customer information screens were installed on Platforms 1 and 2 and in the subway. A 'Next Train Information' terminal was installed on Platforms 3 and 4 along with public announcement system which included a hearing aid loop. A public announcement system, including a hearing aid loop, was installed on Platforms 3 and 4 at Chelmer Station in September 2013.

Yours sincerely

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

Scott Emerson MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads