



The Honourable Scott Emerson MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PET 11616

Your ref: 10.4 Petitions

25 OCT 2013

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition numbers 2166-13 and 2176-13 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by the Honourable Mark McArdle MP, Member for Caloundra about Caloundra 609 bus route.

I acknowledge comments regarding the changes to bus route 609, and appreciate these may require some residents to change their current travel arrangements.

As part of the South East Queensland Bus Network Review, TransLink reviewed the performance, purpose and function of each urban bus route in the region. One of the key drivers for the review was to ensure that resources were being used efficiently and that bus routes were best meeting the needs of the greater community.

As part of this process, TransLink undertook three stages of community consultation between September 2012 and April 2013 which generated over 20,000 pieces of feedback. Consultation sessions were advertised through a number of channels including the TransLink website, printed media publications, signage at major stations, flyer drops in mailboxes, and TransLink's Customer Liaison Officers out and about on the network.

As you are aware, TransLink's review identified that the current bus route 609 performs poorly in terms of patronage, compared with other routes on the Sunshine Coast. However, the review also identified route 609 as providing an important local transport service to elderly residents living in the Pelican Waters and Golden Beach areas.

To address the poor performance of the current service and increase patronage, route 609 will be amended to provide a more direct route for Pelican Waters and Golden Beach residents and to provide convenient access to Caloundra Hospital and Caloundra Stockland Shopping Centre. This change to route 609 will take place in late 2013.

Thank you for bringing your petitioners' concerns regarding the realignment of route 609 to my attention. While I also acknowledge your constituents' request not to proceed with the proposed changes, I can confirm that the implementation of changes to the route will proceed as planned.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Scott Emerson MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads