



The Honourable Scott Emerson MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PET12775

Your ref: 10.4 Petitions

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3 SEP 2014

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to a petition number 2292-14 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Steve Davies MP, Member for Capalaba on 6 August 2014, about a bridge to North Stradbroke Island via Russell Island.

I understand the Russell Island Bridge Lobby Inc has been lobbying for a bridge to Russell Island (and North Stradbroke Island) over many decades due to the high cost of travelling on the ferry to the mainland.

On 1 July 2013, the Southern Moreton Bay Islands were included in the integrated TransLink go card network, introducing affordable travel options for Southern Moreton Bay Island residents. Inter-island travel between Lamb, Macleay, Russell and Karragarra Islands is free and provides significant social benefits for locals to visit friends and travel to events on other islands. By the end of May 2014 more than 1.1 million trips had been made on the ferries with more than 120 000 free inter-island trips.

I am advised that Regional Services in the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDIP) is working with Redland City Council on council's new planning scheme which has not considered or addressed the matter of a bridge to North Stradbroke Island. Government however, has agreed to support council in the establishment of the North Stradbroke Island Economic Transition Group. DSDIP will support the group by providing economic analysis, development facilitation and land use planning.

A bridge to North Stradbroke Island via Russell Island is not a priority for the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) at this time. However, TMR does not, in principle, oppose a privately funded bridge.

For a privately funded bridge to be approved the project would have to adhere to the normal planning, impact assessment and consultation processes and seek development approval through DSDIP, including a referral to Projects Queensland which is responsible for the Government's Public Private Partnerships Policy.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Scott Emerson', with a long, sweeping underline.

Scott Emerson MP

Minister for Transport and Main Roads