



Deputy Premier
Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure,
Local Government and Planning, and Minister for Trade

Our ref: PET 15679

Your ref: 10.4 Petitions

16 November 2015

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
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BRISBANE QLD 4000

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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition number 2482-15 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Ms Leanne Linard MP, Member for Nudgee on 15 October 2015 about request for a noise barrier extension at 253 Melton Road, Northgate.

Noise from the ordinary use of rail transport infrastructure is excluded from environmental nuisance provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. Despite legislative exclusions, Queensland Rail acknowledges that those living near operational rail corridors can be exposed to varying levels of rail noise. Accordingly, Queensland Rail seeks to take reasonable and practical measures to minimise noise impacts.

Noise barriers were constructed between Mayne and Northgate in residential areas following the construction of a fourth track.

At the time of constructing the fourth track, there were no residential buildings located at 253 Melton Road. Prior to the redevelopment of 253 Melton Road, the property was used as an open-air equipment storage area consisting of only one or two small sheds.

The current buildings at 253 Melton Road were constructed after the existing noise barriers for the fourth track were installed.

Brisbane City Council imposed Development Approval (DA) conditions on the developer of 253 Melton Road to treat rail noise both external to, and within, the sensitive buildings.

There has been no change to the train length, no change in the configuration or number of engines and no significant change in train operations since the time of the 253 Melton Road redevelopment. As such, there has not been an operational trigger for Queensland Rail to undertake further noise assessment and/or investigations into the extension of the noise barrier in this location.

With this in mind, although the Queensland Government and Queensland Rail appreciate your request, there is no plan to extend the Melton Road noise barrier at this time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jackie Trad', written in a cursive style.

JACKIE TRAD MP
DEPUTY PREMIER
Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure,
Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade