



Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games

Our ref: PET 19103

Your ref: 10.4 Petitions

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

Level 13 Mineral House
41 George Street Brisbane 4000
GPO Box 2644 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7240
Emails transport@ministerial.qld.gov.au
commonwealthgames@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Websites www.tmr.qld.gov.au
www.dtesb.qld.gov.au

Dear Neil

I refer to petitions, 2638-16 and 2639-16, lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Jim Madden MP, Member for Ipswich West on 15 September 2016, requesting additional bus services between Lowood and Ipswich.

Bus route 529 provides an important connection for residents between Ipswich and Toogoolawah. After careful consideration, I am unable to support the provision of additional services as current patronage rates on existing services are very low.

Patronage figures over the last three months indicate, on average, 529 route bus services are just over 10 per cent full (across all trips), and only ever 23 per cent full when it is busiest. These figures indicate current services are running well below capacity and, at this time, do not support an increase in the level of service.

I can advise that while the route does vary depending on the direction of travel and the day of operation, the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is not considering the application of separate route numbers at this time. The routes essentially service the same areas and it is TMR's view that such a change would create confusion for the majority of customers who rely on this service.

Thank you for your interest in improving passenger transport services and bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stirling Hinchliffe".

STIRLING HINCHLIFFE MP
Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games

11 OCT 2016