

Our ref MC5981

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Re: Petition received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly

I refer to your letter dated 23 April 2004, enclosing a petition concerning support for the recreational public utilisation of the former Tolga to Millaa Millaa rail line and support for the current consideration of heritage listing of remaining rail infrastructure also on the former line.

The former Tolga to Millaa Millaa branch line can be divided into two sections, Tolga to Kairi and Kairi to Millaa Millaa.

Although Queensland Transport (QT) controls the land in the non rail corridor from Tolga to Kairi, the Department of Main Roads requested this land be dedicated as state controlled road and the procedure for this to occur has commenced through the Department of Natural Resources Mines and Energy.

QT does not have any control over the former branch line from Kairi to Millaa Millaa. The land in this section of the former branch line has been amalgamated either with adjoining freehold land or surrendered to the Department of Natural Resources Mines and Energy. Enquiries about possible public usage of this section of the former branch line would best be addressed by that Department.

Any structures on rail corridors are the property of Queensland Rail (QR), not QT. QR has advised that they would be prepared to enter into negotiations with the local council regarding the donation of infrastructure on the corridor.

The issue of possible heritage listing of any rail infrastructure on the former branch line would best be addressed by the Environmental Protection Agency.

As a result of the above, the matters raised in the petition have been referred to the Honourable Stephen Robertson MP, Minister for Natural Resources Mines and Energy and the Honourable John Mickel MP, Minister for the Environment for consideration and reply.

Yours sincerely

PAUL LUCAS MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads



Hon Stephen Robertson MP
Member for Stretton



**Queensland
Government**

**Minister for Natural Resources,
Mines and Energy**

3 SEP 2004

Mr N J Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Alice and George Streets
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your letter of 23 April 2004 to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads enclosing a copy of Petition No 290.04 lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 20 April 2004. As part of the matter raised in the petition falls within the jurisdiction of my portfolio responsibilities, your letter has been referred to me.

The continuous connection of the former Tolga to Millaa Millaa railway cannot be achieved unless an acquiring authority such as the local Council takes action, as the majority of the former branch line has been amalgamated into adjoining freehold land. Enquiries about possible public usage of any remaining sections should be referred to my Department of Natural Resources and Mines for consideration on a case by case basis.

In regard to Irwin Road, I fully support the efforts of the local community in its bid to establish a walking track and native corridor. I have, over an extensive period of time, provided the local community with advice that there is a sufficient area of Irwin Road available for them to facilitate their project. I am aware that the Eacham Shire Council has offered the community both monetary and inkind support to assist them in achieving their desired outcome. It now remains up to the community to utilise this assistance to bring to fruition a facility that will benefit the town of Millaa Millaa.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention and I trust this information clarifies the situation.

Yours sincerely

STEPHEN ROBERTSON MP

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