

Our ref MC6054

Your ref 308-04, 309-4, 310-04, 311-04, 312-04

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Petitions received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly - Tugun Bypass

I refer to the petition lodged by Ms Jann Stuckey MP, Member for Currumbin, in the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 28 April 2004, about the Tugun Bypass route.

On 24 May 2004, Premier Peter Beattie announced that Queensland had reached a breakthrough agreement with NSW to build the Tugun Bypass on the western alignment, which has always been the Queensland preference.

At a joint press conference at Tweed Heads on 24 May 2004, Minister Scully and I announced that the New South Wales government and the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) are now satisfied that their environmental concerns relating to the C4 option had been substantially met and that the bypass can proceed to the environmental approval process with RTA as a co-proponent.

The Honourable John Anderson MP, Deputy Prime Minister and federal Minister for Transport and Regional Services, has subsequently confirmed the \$120m federal funding allocated to the Tugun bypass, which, together with the Queensland funding of \$240m, will provide for construction of the bypass.

There are still a number of environmental and planning approvals to be obtained from various New South Wales and Commonwealth government agencies before work on the bypass can begin. These include finalisation and subsequent public display of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and a Major Development Plan (MDP) for the section of the bypass on Gold Coast Airport land. It is anticipated that approvals will take approximately twelve months, with construction expected to commence by early 2006 and to be completed by late 2007.

Further updated information (including a map of the C4 route) is available by accessing the Internet on www.mainroads.qld.gov.au and following the links to Projects>Road>South East Queensland Region>South Coast Hinterland District>Tugun Bypass Project. Alternatively, you can contact the Tugun bypass project team on 1800 209 020 if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

PAUL LUCAS MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads