



Hon Glenn Butcher MP
Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing
Minister for Water

Our ref: CTS 16942/21
You ref: A776671

1 William Street
Brisbane QLD 4000
GPO Box 2247 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +617 3035 6170
Email regionaldevelopment@ministerial.qld.gov.au
ABN 51 242 471 577

12 NOV 2021

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Cnr George and Alice Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Email: TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear ~~Mr Laurie~~ Neil,

Thank you for your letter of 19 October 2021 concerning petition No. 3513-21 received by the House on 13 October 2021, with the petitioners requesting the House to call on the government to undertake a full feasibility and benefits study of the Bradfield Scheme and include the additional cross benefits a realignment of the Inland Rail to Roma, Emerald and to Gladstone, and the establishment of an inland city near Arcadia Valley would bring to Queensland over the next century.

In response to the petition and on behalf of the government, I provide the following information.

In September 2020, the government established the Bradfield Regional Assessment and Development Panel (the Panel), as an independent expert panel to advise on the viability of a modern Bradfield-like scheme and to report back to government within 12 months. The Panel is chaired by Professor Ross Garnaut and includes representatives from the Queensland Farmers' Federation, James Cook University, and the Cooperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia.

The terms of reference guiding the Panel's deliberations can be found at:
https://www.rdmw.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/1531151/bradfield-panel-terms-reference.pdf

The Panel's terms of reference are broad ranging. As such, the Panel report findings should be a comprehensive assessment of the financial, economic, environmental, social, and technical viability of a Bradfield-like scheme. The report findings will guide the potential opportunities that might arise in the future, including the possibilities your petitioners envisage.

In relation to the Inland Rail proposal mentioned by the petitioners, the alignment and route is a matter for the Australian Government. Of interest to your petitioners, on 3 September 2021, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development announced the Australian Government would provide up to \$10 million to investigate the viability of a Toowoomba to Gladstone rail connection. No proposed route or timeframe for the proposed route extension has been identified by the Australian Government.

Your petitioners can be reassured, the Queensland Government, through the Office of the Coordinator-General and the Department of Transport and Main Roads, will continue to work closely with the Australian Government on the Inland Rail proposal.

I trust that this information has been of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Butcher', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

GLENN BUTCHER MP
Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing
Minister for Water