



Hon. Paul Lucas MP



Queensland
Government

Our ref: MC8684

Minister for
Transport and Main Roads

10 NOV 2004

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Cnr Alice and George Streets
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Re: Petition No. 353-04 – Cairns Tilt Train and Sunlander

I refer to a petition (No. 353-04) tabled in Parliament on 19 August 2004 and petition (No. 367-04) dated 28 September 2004 by Mr Mark McArdle MP, Member for Caloundra, about the Cairns *Tilt Train* and the *Sunlander* stopping at Landsborough station. The principal petitioner was Mrs B D Spring.

Queensland Rail (QR) has advised that, historically, there are few passengers wishing to access long-distance services at Landsborough station. Currently, QR does not consider it warranted to include Landsborough on the scheduled stopping pattern of the Cairns *Tilt Train* and *Sunlander* services.

Specific to the Cairns *Tilt Train*, QR and the Government have attempted to make the overall travelling time as attractive as possible to passengers. To create an additional stop would adversely affect the on-time running of this service. In addition, including a stop at Landsborough for both the Cairns *Tilt Train* and *Sunlander* services would also affect the running times of freight and suburban services that operate along the single train track on this part of the rail corridor.

It is important to note that QR receives many requests from smaller communities similar to Landsborough to include their town as a stop for long-distance trains. If QR was to agree to these requests, the travelling time would be greatly increased and far less attractive to many passengers.

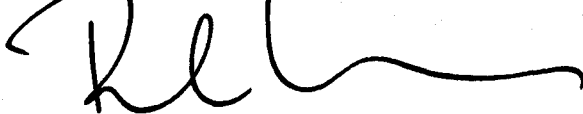
Notwithstanding this, and in line with the Government's priority of managing urban growth and building Queensland's regions, demographic trends and growth in this region are being continually monitored. Any alteration to current arrangements will be considered should there be an overall benefit to the region.

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Meanwhile, intending passengers wishing to use Landsborough station can continue to use their Traveltrain ticket for complimentary travel to either Nambour or Caboolture stations to connect with *Tilt Train* and *Sunlander* services. They can travel via a direct rail service or use the *Railbus* that operates between Nambour and Caboolture.

To ensure minimum inconvenience to passengers, QR staff at both Caboolture and Nambour stations will continue to assist passengers with this transfer.

Yours sincerely

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

PAUL LUCAS MP

Minister for Transport and Main Roads