



## Minister for Transport and Main Roads Minister for Digital Services

Our ref: PET3893-23  
Your ref: A1121274

11 July 2023

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition 3893-23 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Nicholas Dametto MP, Member for Hinchinbrook on 13 June 2023, about urgent consideration of light rail between Ingham and Townsville.

Light rail is a mode of transport suited for commuter transport in higher density and high frequency travel corridors.

The Palaszczuk Government is undertaking planning to understand the long-term requirements of the state's long-distance rail network. This planning will focus on identifying key priorities from a whole-of-network perspective. It will consider key freight and passenger corridors, such as the North Coast Line between Cairns and South East Queensland. While long-term planning will not address all issues faced on the network or resolve all servicing requirements, it will help inform more detailed planning to address service requirements into the future.

In the interim, long distance passenger rail and coach services are available between Townsville and Ingham. Currently, Queensland Rail provides five return services per week on the *Spirit of Queensland* and daily long-distance coach services are provided by two commercial operators.

The Palaszczuk Government is also committed to improving the road network, with planning underway for improvements to the northern approaches to Townsville. Projects with a focus on road safety and network efficiency improvements include sections of Woolcock Street – between Mount Low to Deeragun, Northshore Boulevard to Ingham Road and Weston Street to Pilkington Street. The planning projects will also include investigation of key intersections between Mount Low to Deeragun and at Woolcock Street/Dalrymple Road with consideration for safety and efficiency improvements.

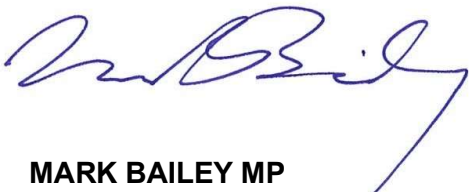
The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has recently completed three projects on the Bruce Highway between Townsville and Ingham. These projects prioritised road safety and efficiency upgrades through the provision of pavement widening overtaking lanes and upgrades to roadside rest areas.

Further information about TMR's regional transport plans and current infrastructure projects can be found on TMR's website at [www.tmr.qld.gov.au](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au).

The Palaszczuk Government is delivering its eighth record transport and roads infrastructure program in a row, as detailed in the *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2023–24 to 2026–27*, which outlines \$32.1 billion in investment over the next four years and is estimated to support an average of 25,200 direct jobs over the life of the program. Of this, \$994 million is committed across TMR's Northern District, which includes Townsville and Ingham.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



**MARK BAILEY MP**  
**Minister for Transport and Main Roads**  
**Minister for Digital Services**