



Hon. Paul Lucas MP



Queensland
Government

Our ref MC9575

Your ref 395-04
24 JAN 2005

Minister for
Transport and Main Roads

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Re: Petition 395-04: Malcomson Street Upgrading Petition

I refer to the petition number 395-04 lodged in the Legislative Assembly office on 21 October 2004 by Mr Timothy Mulherin MP, Member for Mackay, on behalf of various petitioners about the upgrading of Malcomson Street, Mackay.

In June 2004, the Department of Main Roads commenced public consultation on the upgrading of Malcomson Street. On 25 August 2004, Mackay City Council announced that it did not support the upgrading of Malcomson Street and instead wanted a joint levee/road.

Due to the large number of submissions that followed from people who concurred with council's request, I decided to meet with a number of key stakeholders to personally ascertain their views. At this meeting on 21 September 2004, the majority of key stakeholders, including Mackay City Council and Pioneer River Improvement Trust, advised that they wanted an alternative to the Malcomson Street upgrade. Most stakeholders at the meeting indicated that their preference was a joint levee/road.

The submission period for this project closed on 24 September 2004 and feedback was collated into a report that I now have. This petition was included in the Malcomson Street Upgrade Consultation Report. The consultation report clearly showed that there was a need to investigate an alternative to Malcomson Street.

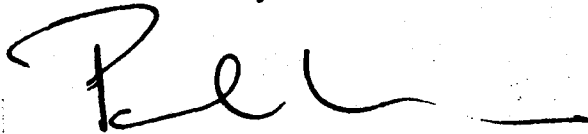
I have requested that the Mackay Area Integrated Transport Study (MAITS) Steering Committee be reformed to undertake this investigation. The group will be reforming to look into the feasibility of alternatives in early 2005. Once I have received recommendations from the MAITS Steering Committee I will make a decision on what project will best service the North Mackay road network.

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I am aware of the environmentally sensitive nature of a joint levee/road that council has proposed. Because of this I have ensured that the environmental issues surrounding alternatives will be investigated fully before any decision is made.

If you need any further information, please contact Mr Ken Williamson, Main Roads District Director (Mackay), on 4951 8540. Mr Williamson will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely

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

PAUL LUCAS MP

Minister for Transport and Main Roads