

Our ref: MC12328

Your ref: 443-05

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Re: Petition No 443-05 - South West Transport Corridor to Yamanto

I refer to a petition lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Ms Rachel Nolan MP, Member for Ipswich, on 9 March 2005 about the extension of the planned South West Transport Corridor (SWTC) to Yamanto.

I note the concerns of local residents about the planned construction of this Springfield to Ripley road and its later extension to the Cunningham Highway, as evidenced by the many signatures in the petition.

In this regard, I am pleased to advise that the Honourable Peter Beattie MP, Premier and Minister for Trade, recently announced an extra \$150m in funding to allow the road to be built in a single stage from Springfield to Yamanto. With total funding of \$270m, this road will provide a genuine network link between the Cunningham Highway at Yamanto and the Ipswich Motorway at Darra.

An impact assessment study for the preferred road alignment west of Springfield is currently underway. It is expected construction of the road will commence in 2006, with completion in 2008-09.

The petition also advocated that Ripley and Fischer Roads should not be linked to nearby industrial areas and that a speed limit of no more than 60km/h be applied to Ripley Road.

As the SWTC will continue through to Yamanto, Ripley Road will not form a direct or main connection from Ipswich onto the Cunningham Highway. Therefore, the state government intends Ripley Road to remain a local government road. Ipswich City Council will be responsible for Ripley Road, including the determination of speed limits and any connections between the roads.

I have forwarded a copy of the petition to Councillor Paul Pisasale, Mayor of Ipswich City, for his consideration as part of future planning for these local roads.

Yours sincerely

PAUL LUCAS MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads