



Hon. Paul Lucas MP



Queensland
Government

Our ref: MC22364

Minister for
Transport and Main Roads

24 JUL 2006

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


26/7/06.

Dear Mr Laurie 

Re: Petition No. 647-06

I refer to a petition lodged with the Legislative Assembly by the Honourable Anna Bligh MP, Member for South Brisbane, in relation to the proposed Eastern Busway.

The Eastern Busway is an integral part of the Queensland Government's long-term plan to meet the transport needs of Brisbane's growing eastern suburbs and the Redland shire by providing faster and more reliable public transport options. On 21 June 2006, TransLink released the draft Eastern Busway plans which will be on display for public consultation until 4 August 2006. Public feedback, together with the results of ongoing technical studies, will help the project team select a preferred alignment for further public consultation in October 2006. The preferred alignment will be investigated in detail as part of the Concept Design and Impact Management Plan (CDIMP).

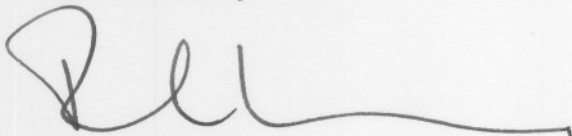
As part of the planning process, TransLink will investigate the potential benefits and impacts the busway could have for Buranda State School, both during and after construction. TransLink will undertake a range of environmental studies over the coming months for the proposed Eastern Busway as a vital part of the planning process. In its studies, TransLink will look at the existing air quality along Old Cleveland Road and the potential changes to air quality resulting from the busway. Studies will also look at ways to minimise noise, vibration, flooding and other potential impacts the busway could have on the school and the surrounding community. The information from these studies will help us custom-build the Eastern Busway to maintain acceptable environmental standards for busway users as well as those who will live, work or study nearby.

The provision of fast, frequent and reliable public transport services for the Old Cleveland Road corridor will deliver major and ongoing community benefits. TransLink has worked closely with residents, community groups and businesses to understand local issues and come up with draft plans that will deliver the best outcomes for the community. The draft plans reflect the initial feedback the team has received since the project was launched late last year. Community feedback is vital to the success of the project and TransLink welcomes local input so that it can deliver the best possible busway for residents in the eastern suburbs and Redland shire.

Since March 2006, TransLink has been meeting regularly with the 20 local residents and business owners who make up the community reference group (CRG). The Buranda State School P&C is represented on the CRG, which acts in an advisory capacity and is the "voice of the community" in the project team. The group helps TransLink balance the technical side of the project with input from local residents. The CRG has members from all over the eastern suburbs and Redland Shire. This is to ensure that the project team considers a spectrum of concerns, interests and opportunities from all residents in the project corridor.

While the CRG exists to provide a broad overview of community feedback, the project team will also work with potentially affected property owners individually and address specific concerns on a case-by-case basis. Consultation with specific stakeholders, including Buranda State School through its Principal and P&C, will continue as part of the planning process.

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