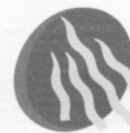




Hon. Paul Lucas MP



Queensland
Government

Our ref: MC24381

Minister for
Transport and Main Roads

26 OCT 2006

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Re: Petition No. 703-06

I refer to a petition lodged in the Legislative Assembly by the former Member for Cleveland, Mr Darryl Briskey, on 9 August 2006 in relation to the proposed Eastern Busway.

TransLink has worked closely with residents, community groups and businesses to understand local issues and present Eastern Busway alignment and station options that would deliver the best outcomes for the community. While each of the three Coorparoo Junction options is technically possible, each has different impacts on the surrounding neighbourhood. TransLink is consulting with potentially affected property owners and local residents to gather feedback about which option the community believes is right for their area. This feedback is vital to the success of the project. The six week consultation period for the draft plans ended on 4 August 2006. TransLink will consider all feedback, together with the results of ongoing technical studies, as the draft plans are refined over the coming months.

The issue of safety is a key consideration for the project team. TransLink is currently preparing a Concept Design and Impact Management Plan (CDIMP) to examine the potential benefits and impacts of the Eastern Busway. The CDIMP will include a range of studies (such as pedestrian access, vehicle access, air quality, environment and hydraulics) to ensure that the busway and train stations are safe for commuters as well as those who will live, work or study nearby.

In response to comments about the heritage value of the old Myer building at Coorparoo, the project team recognises that this building has been added to the register of places worthy of preservation by the National Trust of Queensland.

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Cost is an important consideration for the project team in the selection of an overall preferred alignment and station locations. TransLink is currently preparing a report to be presented to the Queensland Government in early 2007 which will detail the need, benefits, impacts, affordability and delivery options for 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. A busway for the eastern suburbs will be a vital part of Brisbane's busway network. Like our popular and successful rail system, Brisbane's busways will give commuters a congestion-free run on fast, frequent and reliable services. By travelling on their own dedicated road which separates them from general traffic, buses will be able to completely bypass traffic congestion. When completed, the Eastern Busway will connect up with other new busways and train services across Brisbane, so it will be quicker and easier than ever before to move around Brisbane.

The project team will continue to engage with local residents to ensure that the design can be guided by local knowledge and that comments and suggestions can be made to improve the scheme. All feedback will be considered for the final CDIMP, which is expected to be presented to the Queensland Government for consideration in early 2007. The preferred alignment and CDIMP are due to be displayed for public consultation in early 2007.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

PAUL LUCAS MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads