



Hon. Paul Lucas MP



Queensland
Government

Our ref: MC24396

Your ref:

25 SEP 2006



Minister for
Transport and Main Roads

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

Dear Mr Laurie *Neil*

Re: Parliamentary Petition No 708-06

I refer to a petition lodged with the Legislative Assembly by the Member for Cook about scheduled bus services in the Port Douglas area.

I am advised that Queensland Transport (QT) is aware of current issues between the two bus service providers at Port Douglas and QT officers have recently met with the operational managers of both companies. I understand that during the meetings the legislative requirements for operating scheduled services were clearly outlined. I am advised that these requirements included ensuring the bus services are operated in accordance with a published timetable and that the bus drivers carried out their duties appropriately. These requirements were also confirmed in writing to the operational managers of both companies.

Furthermore, I am advised that QT will continue to work closely with Port Douglas police to address the allegations of aggressive driver behaviour and inappropriate passenger transport operations. I understand that a number of covert operations over the last three years have not produced sufficient evidence to support any action in relation to driver behaviour by QT.

In general, the department encourages non-regulated, over regulated services where the environment enables operation of a competitive service. The demographics of Port Douglas are such that during the tourist season there is sufficient demand to allow for market conditions and competitive passenger transport services to be offered. The operators also have the flexibility to publish an off tourist season timetable to provide bus services to meet the reduced demand.

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The department is seeking and actively working towards a resolution of the problems in Port Douglas. However the operators must also commit to work within the legislative requirements to achieve the outcomes for the general public.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

PAÛL LUCAS MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads