



Hon. Paul Lucas MP



Queensland
Government

Our ref: MC30298

Your ref: 821-07

24 AUG 2007

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



29/8/07

Dear Mr Laurie

Re: Petition No. 821-07

I refer to your letter of 24 May 2007 about the petition by the Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee (B4C), to the Honourable Peter Beattie MP, Premier and Minister for Trade, which was lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 22 May 2007, regarding the Salisbury to Kuraby Rail upgrade.

The Salisbury to Kuraby Rail upgrade project is being delivered by the S2K Alliance (the Alliance), a partnership between QR Limited (QR) and Abigroup Contractors. The project is providing benefits by enhancing local rail facilities. This includes station upgrades to improve station security and safety and provide easier access for everyone, with new railway platforms, new and upgraded shelters, as well as upgrades to station lighting. As part of this project, the Alliance has committed to revegetation planting, where practical, along the rail corridor and at stations.

In response to the B4C's specific requests, as outlined in its petition, QR has advised the following:

- (a) **Support the revegetation plans submitted to QR by the Bulimba Creek Catchment Committee (B4C).**

QR has welcomed the B4C's submission and has incorporated the majority of its suggestions into its draft revegetation plan. As most of the proposed B4C revegetation is situated on Brisbane City Council (BCC) property, QR is working together with the council to seek endorsement for these plans.

QR has further advised that the landscaping and revegetation plan for public consultation will include B4C's area of interest and will be on display locally for community review in August 2007. As part of this process community feedback will be sought on the proposed plans to revegetate the rail corridor to ensure the best outcome for the community.

(b) Ensure efforts are adequate to restore the natural environment and community well being where possible.

QR is strongly committed to the rehabilitation of the railway corridor and is working with the community and local environmental groups in developing plans to re-establish the habitat. As part of these plans, many new native trees and shrubs will be replanted including around 5000 native trees, 3300 shrubs, grasses and ground covers. Native tree species selected for planting include eucalyptus, scribbly gum, grey ironbark and Queensland blue gum.

These landscaping plans take into consideration current water restrictions and will favour flora that is evergreen, fast growing, low maintenance and drought tolerant. Rehabilitation plans will also include topsoil replacement, mulch respread, weed spraying, seeding and tube-stock planting.

In addition, areas that require revegetation and rehabilitation around noise barriers and station sites will be planted with native species to enhance the character of the local environment.

(c) Create solutions to wildlife corridor protection and enhancement by creating wildlife movement solutions on strategic areas of Beenleigh Road.

The provision of a wildlife corridor/s across Beenleigh Road is outside the project scope and as such was not included in the Salisbury to Kuraby Environmental and Planning Study. QR has advised that it is unable to assist with the wildlife corridor proposal and suggests that B4C direct its request for wildlife movement solutions at this location to BCC as the relevant Government authority.

I would like to assure the B4C that QR and the project team is committed to the rehabilitation of the Salisbury to Kuraby rail corridor, as well as actively working with community groups to sponsor and facilitate local landscaping ventures outside the corridor. On National Tree Day on 27 July 2007, the Alliance contributed about 1000 plants to be planted at Les Atkinson Park in Sunnybank, by students from the local Sunnybank State School. The Alliance also supported the day by preparing the planting site and providing water tankers for controlled water use on the day.

The Alliance also proudly sponsored the Sunnybank Scout Group's Tree Planting Working Bee, contributing mulch, topsoil and approximately 500 plants. In addition, the Alliance also supplied crusher dust for pathways and machinery to help landscape the scout's den and surrounding parkland.

If the B4C requires further information it should contact the Alliance team on 1800 232 647 or via email: project.info@s2kalliance.incite.com.au.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

PAUL LUCAS MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads