



Hon John Mickel MP
Member for Logan

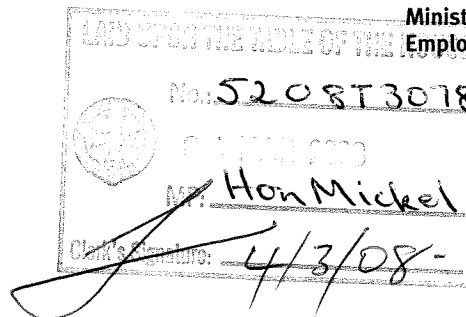


**Queensland
Government**

Our ref: MC34204 – TR/08/0061

26 FEB 2008

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



**Minister for Transport, Trade,
Employment and Industrial Relations**

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petitions 972-07 lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 15 November 2007 regarding the western route for the Gold Coast Rapid Transit System.

The planning and design for the rapid transit system through Surfers Paradise has proven to be challenging due to the limited corridor available in this highly developed area and the need to accommodate existing and future events and activities, including the Indy event, the Gold Coast Marathon and the Big Day Out.

One of the core objectives of the Gold Coast Rapid Transit System is to efficiently connect the major activity centres of Southport, Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach. The most direct route from Southport to Surfers Paradise is via the Gold Coast Highway.

I am advised that the western alignment on the Gold Coast Highway for the Gold Coast Rapid Transit System is the best solution to ensure a reliable and frequent public transport system year round for the city, while taking into account servicing the Gold Coast's single largest event, the Gold Coast Lexmark Indy. Alternate alignments would result in the rapid transit system being disrupted for a considerable period during the build up and operation of the Indy event.

A project of this scale in a densely urbanised area will inevitably involve impacts. Consultation with the community and key stakeholders has been invaluable in helping the project understand the community's concerns and to refine the concept design where appropriate. The project team has engaged the residents of Paradise Waters to obtain an understanding of their concerns. Many of the issues raised, such as visual impact and access arrangements, have been addressed and incorporated into the concept design for the rapid transit system.

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I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

JOHN MICKEL MP
Minister for Transport, Trade,
Employment and Industrial Relations