



Michael Berkman MP
For Maiwar ▲

24 March 2021

Minister for Transport and Main Roads
Mark Bailey MP
Via email: transportandmainroads@ministerial.qld.gov.au

CC: Minister for Education
Grace Grace MP
Via email: education@parliament.qld.gov.au

Request for a meeting to discuss traffic congestion in the Lambert Rd precinct

Dear Minister Bailey,

I am writing to you about a significant traffic and transport issue impacting my electorate that I would appreciate discussing with you or your staff.

By way of background, the traffic issues around the Lambert Rd precinct in Indooroopilly are a long-standing concern for local residents. The pressure added around school drop off and pick up times is enormous in this part of the neighbourhood.

The precinct currently hosts more than 5,000 students at Indooroopilly State High (ISHS), St Peter Lutheran College (St Peters), Brigidine College and Holy Family Primary School. Some but not all of those students currently catch public transport, walk or cycle to school, and we don't at this stage have a clear picture of the relevant transport mode share at all of the schools.

The State Government's recent proposal to build a new primary school on the grounds of Indooroopilly State High School has highlighted the extent of residents' concerns about the traffic issues, and the negative impact it's having on their lives and ability to move around their neighbourhood. During the consultation process for the school, hundreds of residents made submissions, and contacted me and the Education Minister to oppose this proposed location for another school, primarily because of the significant traffic issues the precinct is already facing. I have also submitted my concerns to the Building Future Schools team, and Minister Grace about this.

While we're still waiting to hear from the Department of Education about the next steps towards determining a location for the new school, I believe these concerns need to be addressed as a priority, irrespective of whether an additional primary school is built in the precinct.

While most traffic matters are the responsibility of Brisbane City Council, I believe the added pressure generated by schools in the area creates a need for the State Government to assist in addressing this

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problem. I'm currently seeking a meeting with Brisbane City Council representatives to facilitate a discussion about how they can address this, and would like to do the same with you as the State Minister for Transport.

In particular, there are a number of specific proposals I'd like to discuss with both levels of Government. These suggestions have been formulated after consulting widely with residents alongside the Education Department's consultation process for the new school, and I believe would go some way to addressing resident's concerns about Generally, I believe the ultimate objective is to move as many families as possible away from using their cars, by making public and active transport in the area as attractive as possible.

Specific improvements to traffic, public transport and active transport could include:

- State government funding for Translink to create more school bus services, targeting high school students and including better dedicated school bus services for Indooroopilly, Fig Tree Pocket, Chapel Hill and other local suburbs;
- Expediting Council's Indooroopilly bikeway stages 3 and 4 on Lambert Rd (linking Witton Barracks to the Esplanade bikeway in St Lucia);
- Expanding the 40km school zone or creating some permanent 40km areas in the Lambert Rd / Central Ave / Indooroopilly Rd precinct;
- Safe pedestrian crossings along Lambert Rd (Clarence Rd, Central Ave, Fairley St and Carnarvon Rd);
- Pedestrianising the end of Lambert Rd between Indooroopilly Station and Clarence Rd (based on Council's long-standing Witton Barracks Master Plan);
- Creating a permanent Active School Travel program at every school in the precinct to help students and families shift away from private vehicles, funded by Council, the State government and the non-government schools; and
- A state funded Integrated Traffic Management Plan for all schools in the precinct, including mode share targets for all schools in the precinct. This is something I've argued for before as part of the St Peters Ministerial Infrastructure Designation process.

While most of these suggestions are Council responsibilities, there is a case for the State to step in and play a role, particularly in developing a traffic management plan for the schools and funding new bus services. Whether or not a new school is added to this precinct, there is an urgent need for State Government assistance.

I'd also like to reiterate my view that implementing free public transport for school-aged kids would go some way to reducing congestion around schools (particularly high schools). I urge the State Government to reconsider this idea, and seek to implement it as soon as possible in this term.

I'm seeking a meeting with you or an advisor at your earliest convenience to discuss these proposals further. The staff in my office would be pleased to find a mutually agreeable time. To do so, or to discuss anything else, please contact my office on 07 3737 4100.

Kind regards,



Michael Berkman MP