

Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle Users Group

CBD BUG

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The Honourable Craig Wallace MP
Minister for Main Roads
PO Box 15456
CITY EAST QLD 4002

Dear Minister

This letter seeks your urgent clarification on the position of the inclusion of freeway type cycling infrastructure in the Pacific Motorway upgrade between Springwood and Daisy Hill.

The background to this letter is the report in the Courier Mail of 1 September 2009 (copy attached), which indicates the cost of the project has "forced planners back to the drawing boards".

The CBD BUG is very concerned by this report as our experience has been that when the costs for a transport infrastructure project need to be cut, invariably the first elements to either be downgraded or dropped completely are the cycling elements.


We note statements by yourself such as the one of 23 June 2009 that the Queensland Government has a five-point strategy to address congestion by creating an "active transport network that has greater accessibility, frequency and reliability through more cycling facilities", and that of the Member for Springwood Ms Barbara Stone specific to this project on 7 July 2009 that "a section of bikeway will also be constructed between Springwood south and Daisy Hill, which will ultimately link the Gold Coast and Brisbane, to meet the needs of cyclists in the region".

From the CBD BUG's perspective a vital element of the 'gains' negotiated during the consultations on this project was that the bikeway would be built as a cyclist "freeway", with no intersections, road crossings etc. for the length of the upgrade project, mirroring the level of infrastructure enjoyed by motorists.

Accordingly, on behalf of CBD BUG members I seek clarification of the project's position, and in particular your confirmation that the previously understood commitment to improving cycling infrastructure will not be forgone in order to deliver improved infrastructure for motorists.

I look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul French". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" being larger and more prominent than the last name "French".

Paul French
Co-convenor
Central Business District Bicycle Users Group
2 September 2009

cc. Logan Bicycle User Group

C/MAIL 1/9/09

Cost concerns slow upgrade

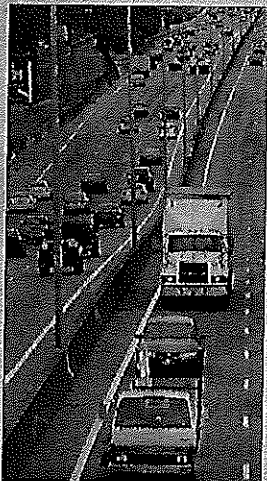
Emma Chalmers
IN CANBERRA

A \$422 million upgrade to the Pacific Motorway that was supposed to be fast-tracked as part of the Rudd Government's stimulus program is six months behind schedule.

Construction on the transit project between Springwood and Daisy Hill was due to begin early this year. But major work is yet to start on the site.

The delay was disclosed in a progress report on the \$42 billion stimulus program by the Commonwealth Co-ordinator-General, who blamed the hold-up on haggling over costs and a redesign of the project.

It was one of three "shovel-ready" nation-building projects selected for accelerated funding in Queensland last December, as part of the Rudd Government's efforts to stimulate the economy.



RUNNING LATE: The Pacific Motorway.

The Government has emphasised the importance of its infrastructure building plans in supporting jobs in the medium term as the effects of the stimulus cash splashes have dissipated.

Canberra will contribute

\$200 million to the 3km Pacific Motorway upgrade, which will include the construction of two new transit lanes and connections to two new bus lanes.

The State Government has described the upgrade as "the highest priority" in improving the congested route, which is used by 140,000 motorists every day.

But negotiations over the cost of the upgrade forced planners back to the drawing board.

Federal Transport Minister Anthony Albanese's office said preconstruction work had begun, but major works were delayed after the initial contract prices were rejected because they would have blown the budget.

Elements of the project then had to be re-engineered to bring the price down.

A spokeswoman for Mr Albanese said "at the moment the project is on

budget" and it is hoped the builders can make up the time lost and deliver the project on schedule.

Under the rules of the stimulus program, state and local governments are responsible for any cost blow-outs, with the Federal Government providing only a fixed amount of cash.

The Co-ordinator-General found work on Queensland's other two projects was progressing on schedule.

A major engineering investigation is underway looking at the abandoned coalmines along the Ipswich Motorway, as preconstruction work continues on the \$1.14 billion upgrade of the Dinmore to Goodna stretch.

And initial works to increase the Douglas Arterial road in Townsville from two to four lanes is due to begin within months.

Place & Time » P25