

From: [Dylan Southee](#)
To: [Shauna Turner Smith](#)
Subject: RE:
Date: Monday, 5 February 2024 4:01:00 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image001.png](#)

Edits below.



Dylan Southee
A/Senior Policy Advisor
Office of the Hon. Bart Mellish MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services

PNR [redacted] | E dylan.southee@ministerial.qld.gov.au



From: Shauna Turner Smith <Shauna.TurnerSmith@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 3:42 PM
To: Dylan Southee <Dylan.Southee@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject:

Good afternoon

As I understand, you will have now received correspondence from the Honourable Bart Mellish MP, Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services regarding the Mooloolah River Interchange (MRI) Upgrade project.

The MRI Upgrade project remains a priority for the Queensland Government, however, cannot be delivered without Federal support.

As such, the meeting you requested to discuss this project is now redundant, and we are unable to meet with you at this time.

Thank you for your interest in the project.

Shauna Turner

Senior Policy Advisor
Minister for Transport and Main Roads
Minister for Digital Services

PNR [redacted] | E shauna.turnersmith@ministerial.qld.gov.au

From: [Scott A Whitaker](#)
To: [Shauna Turner Smith](#)
Subject: RE: Correspondence to Member
Date: Monday, 5 February 2024 5:46:56 PM
Attachments: [image002.jpg](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

Thanks Shauna, will do

Kind Regards

Scott Whitaker

Regional Director | North Coast Region
Program Delivery and Operations Infrastructure Management and Delivery
Department of Transport and Main Roads

P: 07 5451 7071 | M: NR
Level 1 | 50 Wisers Road | Buderim Qld 4556
PO Box 1600 | Maroochydore Qld 4558
scott.a.whitaker@tmr.qld.gov.au
www.tmr.qld.gov.au



From: Shauna Turner Smith <Shauna.TurnerSmith@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 5 February 2024 5:13 PM
To: Scott A Whitaker <Scott.A.Whitaker@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Correspondence to Member

Hold until tomorrow morning – letter going this afternoon.

Good afternoon

As I understand, you will have now received correspondence from the Honourable Bart Mellish MP, Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services regarding the Mooloolah River Interchange (MRI) Upgrade project.

The MRI Upgrade project remains a priority for the Queensland Government, however, cannot be delivered without Federal support.

As such, the meeting you requested to discuss this project is now redundant, and we are unable to meet with you at this time.

Thank you for your interest in the project.

Shauna Turner

Senior Policy Advisor

Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Minister for Digital Services

P NR  E shauna.turnersmith@ministerial.qld.gov.au



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From: [TMR DLO](#)
To: [Brett Reed](#)
Cc: [Shannon Marshall-McCormack](#); [Hannah Whittle](#); [Shauna Turner Smith](#); [Dylan Southee](#); [Seona Keane](#)
Subject: Major Milestones Report - As at 2 February 2024
Date: Thursday, 8 February 2024 10:09:48 AM
Attachments: [IMD - Major Milestones as at 2 February.pdf](#)
[PDO - Major Milestones Secondary Projects as at 2 February.pdf](#)
[PPI - Major Milestones Active Transport as at 2 February.pdf](#)
[Translink - Major Milestones Park n Ride as at 2 February.pdf](#)

Good morning

Please see attached Major Milestones Report as at 2 February 2024.

Thank you.

Kind regards

Taleah Thompson

Departmental Liaison Officer | Cabinet, Legislation and Executive Services

Corporate Division | Governance Branch | Department of Transport and Main Roads

Level 31 | 1 William Street | Brisbane Qld 4000

GPO Box 2644 | Brisbane Qld 4001

(07) 3066 4216

TMR_DLO@tmr.qld.gov.au

www.tmr.qld.gov.au

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■ Completed
■ On Track
■ Minor Issues
■ At Risk

| Status | Project Name - Cost - Funding - Jobs | Region/District | Major milestone - (construction commencement and completion date) | Background/explanation of changes/issues to note- upcoming milestone |
|--------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---|--|
|--------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---|--|

NOT RELEVANT

Released under RTI - DTMR

■ Completed
■ On Track
■ Minor Issues
■ At Risk

TMR Major Milestones update for the Deputy Director-General, IMD

Office of the Deputy Director-General
Infrastructure, Management and Delivery

| Status | Project Name - Cost - Funding - Jobs | Region/District | Major milestone - (construction commencement and completion date) | Background/explanation of changes/issues to note- upcoming milestone |
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NOT RELEVANT

Released under RTI - DTMR


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Released under RTI - DTMR

|  | | TMR Major Milestones update for the Deputy Director-General, IMD | | |
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| | | Office of the Deputy Director-General Infrastructure, Management and Delivery | | |
| Status | Project Name - Cost - Funding - Jobs | Region/District | Major milestone - (construction commencement and completion date) | Background/explanation of changes/issues to note- upcoming milestone |
| | NOT RELEVANT | | | |
| | BPIC Sunshine Motorway, Mooloolah River Interchange Upgrade (Stage 1) design and construction | North Coast | NOT RELEVANT | NOT RELEVANT |
| | NOT RELEVANT | | | |
| | | | | 8. A meeting is scheduled with Ms Fiona Simpson MP, Member for Maroochydore, on 6 February 2024 to discuss the MRI Upgrade project and consultation for public transport projects on the Sunshine Coast. |

■ Completed
■ On Track
■ Minor Issues
■ At Risk

TMR Major Milestones update for the Deputy Director-General, IMD

Office of the Deputy Director-General
Infrastructure, Management and Delivery

| Status | Project Name - Cost - Funding - Jobs | Region/District | Major milestone - (construction commencement and completion date) | Background/explanation of changes/issues to note- upcoming milestone |
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| NOT RELEVANT | <p style="font-size: 2em; opacity: 0.2; transform: rotate(-30deg);">Released under RTI - DTMR</p> | | | |
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Released under RTI - DTMR

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Released under RTI - DTMR

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■ Minor Issues
■ At Risk

TMR Major Milestones update for the Deputy Director-General, IMD

Office of the Deputy Director-General
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NOT RELEVANT

Released under RTI - DTMR

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Released under RTI - DTMR

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NOT RELEVANT


Released under RTI - DTMR

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Released under RTI - DTMR

|  | | TMR Major Milestones update for the Deputy Director-General, IMD | | |
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| | | Office of the Deputy Director-General Infrastructure, Management and Delivery | | |
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| | NOT RELEVANT | | | |

Released under RTI - DTMR

Belle Brookfield

NOT RELEVANT

From: TMR DLO <TMR_DLO@tmr.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 8:21 AM

To: Shauna Turner Smith <Shauna.TurnerSmith@ministerial.qld.gov.au>

Cc: Dylan Southee <Dylan.Southee@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Shannon Marshall-McCormack <Shannon.MM@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Hannah Whittle <Hannah.Whittle@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Brett Reed <Brett.Reed@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; TMR_CLO <TMR_CLO@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Peter Y Brown <Peter.Y.Brown@tmr.qld.gov.au>

Subject: IMD MP engagement calendar - as of 5 February 2024

Good morning

Please find attached IMD MP engagement calendar as at 5 February 2024.

Kind regards

Taleah Thompson

Departmental Liaison Officer | Cabinet, Legislation and Executive Services
Corporate Division | Governance Branch | Department of Transport and Main Roads

Level 31 | 1 William Street | Brisbane Qld 4000

GPO Box 2644 | Brisbane Qld 4001

(07) 3066 4216

TMR_DLO@tmr.qld.gov.au

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| Name of official | Location | Start Time | End Time | Agenda |
|--|---|-----------------|-----------------|---|
| NOT RELEVANT | | | | |
| Fiona Simpson, Member for Maroochydore | Electorate Office, 1B, 148 Horton Parade, Maroochydore QLD 4558 | 6/02/2024 14:00 | 6/02/2024 15:00 | Agenda items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Sunshine Motorway, Mooloolah River Interchange (MRI) Upgrade project: •Consultation for public transport projects on the Sunshine Coast TMR representatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Mr Scott Whitaker, Regional Director (North Coast) •Mr Trevor Land, Project Director (Significant Projects) •Mr Matthias Schlottnerbach, Program Director (North Coast Public Transport) •Ms Simone Cameron, Senior Communications Officer •Ms Shauna Turner, Minister's Office (to be dialled in) |
| NOT RELEVANT | | | | |

Released under RTI - DIT

Belle Brookfield

From: Matt Swan
Sent: Monday, 5 February 2024 3:34 PM
To: Brett Reed
Cc: Shauna Turner Smith
Subject: FW: BRIEFS FOR ACTION - MC142924 - Ms Fiona Simpson MP - about Increased cost of the Mooloolah River Interchange
Attachments: MC142924.pdf; MC142924_Response STS edits.docx
Importance: High

Hi Brett,

Shauna wanted to flag this one for urgency this afternoon



Matt Swan
Admin Officer
Office of the Hon. Bart Mellish MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services

P 07 3719 7319 | E matt.swan@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Queensland | *Good jobs
Better services
Great lifestyle*

From: Shauna Turner Smith <Shauna.TurnerSmith@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 1:39 PM
To: Brett Reed <Brett.Reed@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Matt Swan <Matt.Swan@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject: FW: BRIEFS FOR ACTION - MC142924 - Ms Fiona Simpson MP - about Increased cost of the Mooloolah River Interchange
Importance: High

Shauna Turner
Senior Policy Advisor
Minister for Transport and Main Roads
Minister for Digital Services

PNR [REDACTED] E shauna.turnersmith@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Queensland | *Good jobs
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Great lifestyle*



From: Matt Swan <Matt.Swan@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 1:36 PM
To: Shauna Turner Smith <Shauna.TurnerSmith@ministerial.qld.gov.au>

Subject: FW: BRIEFS FOR ACTION - MC142924 - Ms Fiona Simpson MP - about Increased cost of the Mooloolah River Interchange

Importance: High



Matt Swan
Admin Officer
Office of the Hon. Bart Mellish MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services

P 07 3719 7319 | E matt.swan@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Queensland | Good jobs
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Great lifestyle

From: TMR DLO <TMR_DLO@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 3:57 PM
To: Elly Begley <Elly.Begley@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Matt Swan <Matt.Swan@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject: BRIEFS FOR ACTION - MC142924 - Ms Fiona Simpson MP - about Increased cost of the Mooloolah River Interchange
Importance: High

Hi Elly

Please find attached for approval.

NOT RELEVANT

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| File No. | MC142924 | <input type="checkbox"/> URGENT |
| Date: | 24/01/2024 | <input type="checkbox"/> COVID-19 |
| Title/Subject: | Increased cost of the Mooloolah River Interchange | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Correspondence <input type="checkbox"/> Briefing Note <input type="checkbox"/> Minister's Constituent |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advisor: STS | | Date: 1/2/2024 |
| Comments: | Supported with edits. Associated letters have been sent. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chief of Staff: | | Date: |
| Comments: | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Minister: | | Date: |

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Comments: | |
| Further Action: | |
| MO Tracking | # |
| Tracking | 24/01 – BC to EB NOT RELEVANT |

Kind regards

Brendan Conquest

Departmental Liaison Officer | Cabinet, Legislation and Executive Services
 Corporate Division | Governance Branch | Department of Transport and Main Roads

Floor 31 | 1 William Street | Brisbane Qld 4000

GPO Box 2644 | Brisbane Qld 4001

(07) 3338 4029

TMR_DLO@tmr.qld.gov.au

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Jaya Z Govender

From: TMR DLO
Sent: Tuesday, 16 January 2024 3:55 PM
To: MCS Executive Services
Cc: Shauna.TurnerSmith@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Subject: MC142924_JG_16/01: Letter from Fiona Simpson MP
Attachments: 24.01.16 Ltr to Min re MRI increased cost.pdf

| | |
|---|---|
| PREVIOUS | |
| CROSS REFERENCE | |
| PRIORITY – urgent/routine | Routine |
| RESTRICTION | |
| FILE ID | 110/00872 (MC) |
| ACCOUNTABLE AREA | PDO |
| ACTION TO | DocTrak.DD-G (IMD) |
| TIMEFRAME – 5, 10, 15 days or other | 5 |
| SUBJECT LINE | Increased cost of the Mooloolah River Interchange |
| SIGNATORY Min/CoS/SPA/DG/DDG/GM Min's constituent/SHM/FYI Referral to another Minister/agency | Minister |
| ENQUIRER DETAILS | Fiona Simpson MP Member for Maroochydore |
| NOTES | |

Min to MP

Kind regards

Taleah Thompson

Departmental Liaison Officer | Cabinet, Legislation and Executive Services
Corporate Division | Governance Branch | Department of Transport and Main Roads

61 Mary Street | Brisbane Qld 4000
GPO Box 2644 | Brisbane Qld 4001
(07) 3066 4216
TMR_DLO@tmr.qld.gov.au
www.tmr.qld.gov.au

From: Transport and Main Roads <TransportandMainRoads@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 16 January 2024 3:50 PM
To: TMR DLO <TMR_DLO@tmr.qld.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Letter from Fiona Simpson MP

Min to MP please



Matt Swan

Admin Officer

Office of the Hon. Bart Mellish MP

Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services

P 07 3719 7319 | E matt.swan@ministerial.qld.gov.au

From: Maroochydore Electorate Office <Maroochydore@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 3:39 PM
To: Transport and Main Roads <TransportandMainRoads@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Letter from Fiona Simpson MP

Good afternoon

Please find attached correspondence from Fiona Simpson MP for the attention of the Minister.

Regards
Summer

Summer

Summer | Senior Electorate Officer
Office of Fiona Simpson MP
Member for Maroochydore



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Fiona SIMPSON MP

Member for **Maroochydore**
Shadow Minister for Finance and Better Regulation
Shadow Minister for Integrity in Government



Ref: FS:sd/corr/transport/24

16 January 2024

Hon Bart Mellish
Minister for Transport and Main Roads
Minister for Digital Services
Email: transportandmainroads@minsterial.qld.gov.au

Dear Minister

RE: MOOLOOLAH RIVER INTERCHANGE

I write in relation to the recently announced increased cost for the construction of the Mooloolah River Interchange (MRI) and the status of the project.

Stage One of the MRI was previously costed at \$320 million, with funding committed by both the State and Federal Government.

The MRI business case, which went to Infrastructure Australia as supplied by DTMR, assessed this project's costings on a P90 (90% chance of being accurate) level of assessment. The project had been assessed at an advanced level.

However, on 22 December 2023, the Queensland Government announced that the revised cost for the MRI was \$734.6 million. This is an increase of approximately 130 per cent, which is concerning that a project - particularly one with a P90 assessment by the Department - can more than double in cost without a satisfactory explanation or plan to resolve it.

On the basis of this alleged cost increase, with no further explanation, the Federal Government pulled their funding commitment.

The funding cut leaves the region in limbo, with proposed upgrades to one of the most dangerous black spots in the area unfunded, not to mention the impact of the number of homes already demolished and residents displaced for the project. The MRI is an important project for the Sunshine Coast not only for safety reasons, but for the service of the residents residing in one of the country's fastest growing regions and to unlock any of the public transport projects.

The four-lane section of Nicklin Way south of the Mooloolah River is currently carrying more than 70,000 vehicles per day and has an "F" level of service and this is set to get worse as the new SEQ Plan for the Sunshine Coast has a target of an additional 84,800 people by 2046 with many of these new residents to reside south of this river crossing.

Doing nothing with this pinch point and blackspot at the MRI as proposed by the State and Federal Government will grind two major Coast connectors to a halt and undermine the region's town plan,

economic development and people's safety. Public transport cannot be improved through this section without with the new bridges which were proposed in the MRI.

As this is an integral infrastructure project for the Sunshine Coast, I request your advice about:

- 1) what you plan to do to fix this congestion point and when;
- 2) why the cost for Stage 1 of the MRI has blown out by more than double;
- 3) has there been a scope change to the MRI which has exacerbated the cost blowout; and
- 4) has DTMR proposed a change to the MRI that have impacted outside of the corridors' existing Federal and/or State Environmental approvals?

I respectfully seek your advice and assistance.

Yours sincerely



Fiona Simpson MP
Member for Maroochydore
Shadow Minister for Finance and Better Regulation
Shadow Minister for Integrity in Government

Released under RTI - DTMR

Our ref: MC142924

Your ref: FS:sd/corr/transport/24

Ms Fiona Simpson MP
Member for Maroochydore
maroochydore@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Ms Simpson

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Contact officer | Trevor Land |
| Telephone | 5475 2817 |
| Approved by | Scott Whitaker Regional Director (North Coast) |
| Date of approval | 19 January 2024 |
| Endorsed by | Ann-Maree Knox General Manager (Program Delivery and Operations) |
| Date of endorsement | 22 January 2024 |
| Endorsed by | Julie Mitchell Deputy Director-General (Infrastructure Management and Delivery) |
| Date of endorsement | 23 Jan. 24 |
| Endorsed by | Sally Stannard Director-General |
| Date of endorsement | 24 January 2024 |

Thank you for your letter of 16 January 2024 about the Sunshine Motorway, Mooloolah River Interchange (MRI) Upgrade project.

~~I understand a meeting has been arranged for 6 February 2024 at your electorate office with representatives from the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) to discuss MRI Upgrade project property impacts and the Sunshine Coast Public Transport project.~~

The MRI Upgrade project remains a priority for the Queensland Government. ~~Stage 1 will address safety and congestion issues that are forecast to increase due to regional population growth and development. It is also the key to unlocking significant public transport and rail projects on the Sunshine Coast and is the trigger for major infrastructure transformation in the region.~~

The Queensland Government front loaded its 50 per cent share of the initial \$320 million allocated following the 2022 Federal Budget to progress design work. A preliminary design layout for the entire MRI Upgrade project was released to the community in July 2023. ~~Design work is progressing and preparatory early works began in mid-May 2023.~~

As you have noted, on 22 December 2023 I announced a revised indicative total cost of \$743.6 million for this project as part of the Queensland Government's renewed plan for transparency with Queenslanders.

It is acknowledged that since preparation of the project's business case and cost estimate in 2020, significant labour and materials cost escalations and unprecedented property market conditions in the Sunshine Coast region have impacted the project budget.

~~TMR is required to progress Protected Planning (Category C) across impacted properties to ensure that anyone wishing to develop, build or purchase will be notified of TMR's future requirements, as well as protecting the corridor for future upgrades.~~

~~TMR is not actively resuming properties required for future stages of the MRI Upgrade project. However, early acquisition is available to eligible property owners whose properties have been identified as Protected Planning in accordance with TMR's Approved Planning Policy. To date, TMR has spent more than \$80 million on property acquisitions, including 84 residential properties required for Stage 1 of the project.~~

The investigation and clarification of technical requirements and the identification of further improvements needed for Stage 1 of the MRI Upgrade project have also driven cost increases. These cost escalations have created additional funding requirements to enable progression of the project.

~~TMR has been liaising with relevant Australian and Queensland Governments departments and regulators to discuss environmental components, share information and ensure legislative requirements are met and where possible exceeded. TMR will continue to listen to and work with these key stakeholders to ensure best practice is achieved.~~

~~The MRI Upgrade project provides significant benefit to the community as part of an integrated solution on the Sunshine Coast.~~ The Queensland Government is committed to delivering this project and we will continue to request that the Australian Government review its position, as the project cannot be delivered without its support.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

BART MELLISH MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads
Minister for Digital Services

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