

The Coordinator-General

media statement



9 November 2011

Green light for future Landsborough to Nambour Rail project

Planning for the Sunshine Coast's \$1.7 billion Landsborough to Nambour rail upgrade is on track with the release of the Coordinator-General's report recommending that the project can proceed.

Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for State Development and Trade Andrew Fraser said the project proposes to upgrade, realign and duplicate around 22 kilometres of the existing North Coast line between Landsborough and Nambour.

The project will be managed by the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR).

"This is obviously a major piece of transport infrastructure that will cater for increasing demand between Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast," Mr Fraser said.

"The rail upgrade will increase the frequency, operating speed and reliability of trains to meet demand well into the future.

"The Coordinator-General's findings provide a basis for long-term planning to secure the corridor".

"The corridor will be established along a predominantly new route and will have capacity for an ultimate four-track configuration to allow for future upgrades," Mr Fraser said.

"New stations will be built at Mooloolah, Eudlo, Palmwoods and Woombye and the tracks will also be realigned to be straighter and less steep so they can accommodate faster trains.

"Decommissioning of the existing railway will occur once the new rail has been constructed and is operational.

"It will also involve removing the existing railway and dedicating land to alternative uses. In some cases, the land may be remediated and revegetated to provide valuable natural habitat."

Coordinator-General Keith Davies said his recommendation recognised that further investigation of environmental impacts by TMR, would be needed further down the track as part of the detailed design phase.

"The proposal is unusual in that construction is not intended to follow shortly after the evaluation report is completed," Mr Davies said.

"My evaluation report of the project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) now allows the reference design for the project to proceed."

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