

PRESS RELEASE
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Rail Upgrade Announcement Pending

State Member for Glasshouse Carolyn Male MP said Queensland Transport was on track to announce the preferred route for the Landsborough to Nambour Rail Corridor Study by early April.

Carolyn Male met with Minister for Transport John Mickel this week to discuss the project's progress. She said after extensive consultation with the community in late 2007, nearly 500 submissions on the study focus area were made to Queensland Transport.

"I would like to thank the communities on the North Coast Line for providing Queensland Transport with important information about the study focus area," Carolyn Male said.

"Queensland Transport and its consultants have been working hard to make sure all issues raised in submissions are included in the analysis of options for the preferred route."

"As expected, a number of submissions brought up issues needing further investigation, hence some additional environmental and technical studies were conducted earlier this month to further inform the route option evaluation process."

"While some additional work has been necessary due to the comprehensive nature of the information provided by the community, Queensland Transport is still on track to release the preferred route for the rail corridor soon."

Following the route announcement, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared.

Carolyn Male said the preferred route would allow for two tracks initially, with room for additional tracks in future if required. The upgraded rail line should be operational by 2020.

“The study is a significant, long-term planning project that will provide a greater level of certainty around the future development and land use of the areas surrounding the North Coast Line between Landsborough and Nambour,” she said.

“By identifying the land required now, Queensland Transport is providing for the future needs of both rail users and the communities surrounding the corridor.”

Carolyn Male said the Landsborough to Nambour Rail Project aimed to improve the efficiency, service frequency, operating speeds and reliability of trains, as well as cater for the increasing demand for rail services in the corridor caused by population and freight transport growth.

For more information about the Landsborough to Nambour Rail Corridor Study please ring 1800 221 991, or go to www.landsborough-nambour.com.au.