



Office of the Mayor

City of Gold Coast

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PO Box 5042
Gold Coast MC QLD 9729
Australia

Telephone +61 7 5581 5283
Facsimile +61 7 5581 6054
Email mayor@goldcoast.qld.gov.au
www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au

Hon Scott Emerson MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads
GPO Box 2644
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Minister

Scott,

DRAFT GOLD COAST CITY PLAN 2015

I write to you in regard to the State Government's requirement to delete all references to the Intra Regional Transport Corridor (IRTC) from the City's above-mentioned Plan.

As you are aware, Council worked closely with the Department of Transport and Main Roads during the preparation of our Gold Coast City Transport Strategy 2013 to ensure that signature actions such as the protection of the IRTC were consistent with and supported the State's regional transport objectives.

In particular, the hard-won protection of the IRTC and its possible future extension north into neighbouring South East Queensland Councils was considered critical by the State to ensure that grid-lock on the M1 within the next ten years could be avoided.

For this reason, I consider the State's direction (received little more than 12 months later) to remove the IRTC from the draft City Plan and to rezone the corridor to match adjoining property zonings to be an extremely retrograde step.

Whilst the immediate transport impacts of not providing for the construction of another north-south transport corridor are obvious, of greater concern is the detrimental effect that its removal will have on the economic productivity of both the City of Gold Coast and the wider South East Queensland region for decades to come.

By not planning for critical transport corridors, the State will knowingly increase the costs of congestion in Queensland by limiting options for future public transport provision, increasing commuter travel times and retarding the movement of freight. This action appears to be completely at odds with the Premier's pledge in his Six Month Action Plan (December 2012) that the Government would *"build roads and provide local infrastructure ... and ensure local councils have the power they need to better plan for the growth of local communities"*.

Due to the urgency and significance of this issue, I request that you reconsider the State's direction to remove the IRTC from Councils' draft City Plan 2015 and enable the Plan to proceed to public notification with the inclusion of the IRTC as originally intended by Council. I am available at any time to discuss this matter in more detail.

Yours sincerely

Tom Tate

TOM TATE
MAYOR