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Officer: Tim Letchford
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4 October 2016

Queensland Rail
Chief Executive Officer
Ms H Gluer
GPO Box 1429
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Ms Gluer

Re: Burgess Street, Glasshouse Mountains Road Over Rail Bridge

I refer to my previous correspondence of 23rd June 2016, relating to the above mentioned bridge.

As stated previously, Sunshine Coast Council (SCC) strongly objects to the assertion that this road over rail bridge is a Sunshine Coast Council asset. At no point in the past has Sunshine Coast Council formally accepted ownership of this asset. This is inconsistent with the management of all other road over rail bridges within our boundaries, none of which are in council control and / or ownership. As a further example, Queensland Rail (QR) have accepted the ownership of the road over rail bridge at Blackall Range Road, Woombye subsequent to the demaying by Transport and Main Roads (TMR) of this road some time ago.

By comparison, TMR currently maintain all road bridges over State Controlled Roads (SCR). In the updated Draft LGAQ/TMR Cost Sharing document dated 20 June 2016 under Bridges, Chapter 10.1 scope, they declare any bridge structure that spans their roads (excluding pedestrian and rail bridges) is their responsibility. This position is based on the premise that any catastrophic failure of the bridge structure would have major ramifications on the SCR. Hence, from a risk management perspective TMR accepts full responsibility of the structural integrity of these bridges.

Furthermore, any maintenance works, including inspections, on road over rail bridges would need to be undertaken in conjunction with the management of rail services in a corridor, over which Sunshine Coast Council has no jurisdiction nor control.

As I mentioned in my earlier letter, as a sign of our good corporate citizenship, SCC had arranged for a structural inspection and assessment on the Burgess Street Bridge at our cost when the underside was accessible, due to line closure in late August. The resultant reports are attached for QR officer consideration and necessary action required under the bridge owner's obligations. It is evident from the reports some maintenance repair works are required to ensure the structural integrity of the bridge is maintained, without which, service load limits for heavy vehicles may need to be imposed, which will have a negative effect on a number of local businesses. Council has already been contacted by concerned heavy vehicle business operators in the Glasshouse Mountains area, as well as the local State Parliament member the Honourable Andrew Powell.

Caloundra 1 Omrah Avenue Caloundra Qld 4551
Maroochydore 10 First Avenue Maroochydore Qld 4558
Nambour Cnr Currie and Bury Streets Nambour Qld 4560

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I am happy to arrange for senior council officers to meet with QR staff to finalise this matter, including the Queensland Rail Draft Road/Rail Interface Agreement with Sunshine Coast Council, that is presently outstanding, as Council firmly believes that we neither have historic nor current ownership obligations with this bridge structure, and action is required by QR to maintain the structure.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Whittaker", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Michael Whittaker
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CC. Director Infrastructure Services, Andrew Ryan
Division 1 Councillor, Rick Baberowski
Manager Transport & Infrastructure Policy, Nick Cooney
Manager Transport Infrastructure Management, John Clarke
Coordinator Asset Strategy, Tim Letchford
Coordinator Technical Services, Chris Loveday
Solicitor Sunshine Coast Council, Graeme Phillips

Attachments

1. Consultant Level 2 Inspection Report (Instrada)
2. Consultant Level 3 Inspection Report (Instrada)