

19 January 2021

Myles Fairbairn
Policy Strategy and Planning Manager
Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure
Brisbane City Council

Via email: BrisbaneTransportFuture@brisbane.qld.gov.au

Dear Myles

RE: North West Transport Network Business Case

This submission has been informed by members of Engineers Australia in consultation with members drawn from all Engineers Australia Colleges, Committees and Learned Societies, to provide representative perspectives from their particular engineering disciplines and industries.

Engineers Australia welcomes the opportunity to provide this submission to Brisbane City Council in response to the North West Transport Network Business Case.

According to the Business Case timeline outlined within the Strategic Assessment Key Findings Report, Council will identify potential solutions and seek community feedback during this current phase of the project prior to finalising the preferred transport solutions for the business case. It is suggested that further assessment is required and further consultation necessary to determine a preferred solution as the options developed by Council are at this stage unclear. The artist impressions provided which show a variety of different modes appear to be the only demonstration of the options considered and these do not provide detail.

Engineers Australia are in support of the following objectives which appear to be set to enable the assessment of options developed:

- Improve the connectivity and reliability of the transport network for better access to jobs, services and recreation, and more efficient freight movements.
- Improve safety across Brisbane's north west transport network.
- Improve public transport services and facilities to make public transport an easier way to travel.
- Improve active transport facilities to encourage more walking and cycling trips.

In addition to addressing these objectives, strong integration and proximity of land use and transport infrastructure continues to be a critical component to achieving sustainable and liveable communities. It is Engineers Australia's view this aspect should play a central role in addressing 'connectivity and reliability of the transport network' to have greater prominence in the scenario planning and evaluation of options in the upcoming Business Case phase. This will ensure the preferred options will generate the optimum outcome from a transport accessibility and urban liveability perspective.

Engineers Australia would like to see further transparency regarding the choice of the route options for each mode considered, their proposed connections with the existing and proposed transport system and any impacts resulting from such connections based on the forecast demand for the corridor.

It is considered a potential risk that increasing the road network capacity along North West Transport Corridor will result in attracting north-south movements from the western areas of Brisbane which will potentially conflict with local and commuting trips within the study area which currently experience significant congestion in the Everton Park to Enoggera corridor. To align with the Transport Plan for Brisbane – Strategic Directions, consideration should also be given to designing a corridor which minimises impacts on the environment and helps to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Engineers Australia recognises the significant challenges associated with North West Transport Network Business Case given the scope, varying community needs and priorities, environmental and topographical constraints, and existing transport capacity issues surrounding key activity precincts. However, there are many great foundations in existing urban development, environmental corridors and transport infrastructure as well as background transport studies that can be leveraged in shaping the best outcomes for this project.

Ultimately, the future transport strategy for the region has the potential to transform the liveability, accessibility and prosperity of Brisbane and Engineers Australia appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback and welcome's future opportunities to contribute to the project's outcomes.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SR', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Stacey Rawlings
General Manager, Queensland