

## Senate Enquiry brief

My name is Mallory Wuthrich. Thank you Senators for the opportunity to speak today regarding my concern about the Inland Rail's impact should it proceed, as planned, through my community. My written submission provides the detail as to my specific concerns; for today however I'd like to focus on the Kagaru to Acacia Ridge and Bromelton route selection optics, from the perspective of an everyday citizen like me.

I'm a father of two small children, aged 7 and 4. My wife and I moved to Algester in 2013, due to its suitability as a community to raise our children in. It has a fantastic array of infrastructure, access to shopping and services, parks, public transport and schools.

We did our due diligence on the existing railroad, and as best as we could find, it had been in limited use for as long as we could find records. A piece of published correspondence we'd found dating back to 1997 -from then opposition leader Peter Beattie - further eased our trepidations. In this letter, Mr Beattie stated that should he win the upcoming election, a State Labor Government would assure the future of the residential communities living along the route by guaranteeing that a heavy freight route would NEVER proceed through these areas.

Mr Beattie did win that election, and since that time, suburbs and residential communities have only further grown, with billions of dollars spent in intervening years by successive governments, to provide infrastructure and services that identify these communities clearly as major residential growth hubs of SE Qld. New tracts of land continue, today, to be opened up for residential suburbs all along the route.

We became aware of the Inland Rail coming through our suburb in early 2017 and adding to this shock, was the discovery that large volumes of coal would also be transited along the route, for the first time. For over 100 years coal has only moved via rail along the Ipswich line.

As has been outlined in the previous statement by Albert and Logan Conservation Association- previous Qld State Govt studies into a SEQ freight route, deemed this corridor to be unsuitable due to the impact it would have on what is prime residential communities.

How has all of this been tossed aside? How is this suddenly no longer relevant and instructive in guiding government policy decisions?

ARTC's own website says people should consider carefully before moving near rail lines as they can be very noisy places. We don't have a choice, the rail is moving to us! And unlike major industry we can't work with government on quid pro quo arrangements to gain concessions to offset the cost or minimize its impact.

None of this stacks up as representing fair, coherent and accountable civic planning.

How are families and communities expected to, in good faith, trust and follow the signals and planning policies of Government when even iron clad promises and decades of planning decisions can be upended and reversed?

How is it conceivable that the current Qld State Government, who in December 2016 chose and gave this route to the Federal Govt, justify to affected communities that this aligns with the intent of the 'iron clad guarantee' of their Labour predecessor Peter Beattie? How could they also agree that it is fair and makes sense to move coal through these communities?

I'd like to finish by quoting former Labor Premier Peter Beattie's 1997 letter to his colleagues in the lead up to his election. My submission Addendum which I urge you to read again contains a link to Mr Beattie's letter in full.

*'Labour's opposition to such a proposal goes back to at least 1986, and we are on the public record as strongly opposing any suggestion that a rail corridor should be built through these suburbs. The massive population growth through the areas concerned since 1986 makes that opposition even more imperative.....*

*At a time when Qlders are increasingly disillusioned that a Government can come to office with wide-ranging commitments and then renege on them, I believe people will want and even demand a written guarantee on this matter.*

*With this letter I believe the residents throughout those suburbs of Brisbane can now feel assured that the election of a Labor Government will guarantee that this option is NEVER proceeded with, and it is only proper that people planning their futures in the areas concerned have the security of such an undertaking'*

Thank-you, and please don't hesitate to contact me at any time should you have any questions about my submission.