

## Petrie to Kippa-Ring rail link plan revived

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**THE Bligh Government and Moreton Bay Regional Council have revived plans to build the long-awaited Petrie to Kippa-Ring rail link, one of the major missing pieces of infrastructure in southeast Queensland.**

The Government and council will jointly fund a push to get the \$880 million project "shovel ready" so it can receive support from Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's multibillion-dollar Infrastructure Australia fund.

They will spend \$4 million on drawing up a business case and design plan for the railway, which has been promised by successive governments for decades but never been delivered.

The Government dropped plans to build the link five years ago after a study suggested it would be unviable and during the March election campaign ridiculed an Opposition promise to construct the railway.

However, Moreton Bay Mayor Allan Sutherland has continued to lobby for the project, insisting that the rapidly growing communities north of Brisbane needed better public transport links.

"Petrie, Kallangur, Mango Hill, North Lakes and Rothwell are some of Australia's fastest growing and most car-reliant suburbs, so I am pleased we can work together to get this project shovel ready," he said.

The Translink transit authority has recently spent more than \$1.5 million on another study into the project which suggested the line would be so popular that services would have to run express from Petrie into the city.

Transport Minister Rachel Nolan wrote to Cr Sutherland last week confirming the state would contribute \$2 million to the development of a "business case and implementation plan" for the Redcliffe link.

Moreton Bay Regional Council will also contribute \$2 million to the project.

She said that the Government and the council should develop a "memorandum of understanding" to plan the project "with a view to developing a business case by early 2010".

Cr Sutherland has already informed Mr Rudd and Infrastructure Minister Anthony Albanese of his move to revive the rail project.

He is expected to reveal the plan in today's Moreton Bay Regional Council budget.