



Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports
Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply

Our ref: PET 17346

Your ref: 10.4 Petitions

10 MAY 2016

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to a petition number 2574-16 lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 19 April 2016 about the speed limits along the Northbrook Parkway between Wivenhoe-Somerset Road and the Mount Glorious township.

In Queensland, speed limits are set in accordance with strict guidelines (*the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices*) that outline requirements for speed zones and signage. In determining speed limits for any section of road, there are many considerations including crash history, traffic volumes and prevailing speeds, road function and environment. This ensures that road users can be confident that speed limits are being set in a consistent manner across the state and that they are a safe and appropriate limit in normal driving conditions.

Officers from the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) have investigated the section of Mount Glorious Road between Wivenhoe-Somerset Road and the Mount Glorious township. Investigations determined there are two distinct roadside environments and speed limits over this section. The mountainous range section, from the township to the bottom of the range, is approximately 11.8km long with a speed limit of 60km/h. The road alignment is steep and winding with only very short lengths of relatively straight road between tight curves. There are large high visibility signs warning of the steep/narrow road alignment, with reduced speed/curve warning signs on each tight curve. The section from the bottom of the range, through to the intersection with Wivenhoe-Somerset Road, is approximately 11.4km long over 16 creek crossings. The road alignment supports the higher speed limit of 80km/h as it is a more gently winding segment and the regular curves are not as severe as on the mountainous section.

Crash reports from the most recent five years of data available to the department, indicate that both road segments have a significantly high crash rate for the relatively low traffic volumes on the road. The reports indicate that motorcycle riders are considerably over represented in crashes on this road, with indications that the primary cause of the incidents is attributed to a rider's approach speed, or misjudgement travelling through the tightly curved road alignment. It would be reasonable to correlate that an increase in the speed limit would result in an increase in these types of crashes.

To make the road safer, in recent years my department has undertaken a significant upgrade of the signage to increase awareness and guidance along Mount Glorious Road.

My department is aware that the nature of the road makes it attractive for recreational motorcyclists. TMR has responsibility for providing a safe arterial road for local residents and travellers between the Somerset and Brisbane/Moreton Bay Regional Council areas. Given due consideration of the crash data and road environment, the State Government does not support an increased speed limit on the road.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Bailey', with a long, sweeping tail extending to the right.

MARK BAILEY MP
Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and
Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply