



The Honourable Scott Emerson MP  
Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PET 11039

Your ref: Petitions

13 JUN 2013

Mr Neil Laurie  
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Dear Mr Laurie *Neil*

I refer to a petition number 2040-13 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Andrew Cripps MP, Member for Hinchinbrook on 21 May 2013 about the Bruce Highway at El Arish.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) commends constituents in Hinchinbrook for their interest in road safety. TMR receives many requests to review speed limits on sections of the road network and considers each on an individual basis taking into account factors such as traffic volumes and crash data, road design and the surrounding environment.

The speed limit on the Bruce Highway through El Arish has been reviewed several times since this issue was first raised in 2010. TMR has reassessed the speed limit and can confirm that the existing 80km/h speed limit remains the most appropriate speed for this location.

While the speed limit on this section of the Bruce Highway will remain at 80km/h, TMR has reviewed the design of the highway through El Arish, with the view to determining other solutions that could be applied in the interest of road user safety.

The review identified that there is potential to rationalise the intersections on the Bruce Highway through El Arish by reducing the number of local roads that have access to the highway. This proposal would streamline the entry and exit points along the highway and improve safety for turning and through traffic. As the Bruce Highway is part of the National Network and federally funded, any future upgrades or safety improvements will need to compete with the many other high priority needs.

TMR will consider this proposal when submitting projects for consideration in future federal funding programs.

Yours sincerely

Scott Emerson MP  
Minister for Transport and Main Roads