



Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PET 33855

Your ref: A481123

18 SEP 2019

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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petitions 3179-19 and 3153-19, lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Dale Last MP, Member for Burdekin on 20 August 2019 about traffic lights for the intersection of the Bruce Highway, Allendale Drive and Bentley Drive at Alligator Creek.

Road safety is a high priority for the Palaszczuk Government. That is why we increased our investment in road safety by \$205 million in this year's State Budget, bringing the total to \$900 million over four years.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) continually monitors the condition of Queensland's highways and state-controlled roads to ensure they are safe and capable of handling the growing traffic demand. This also ensures the accurate prioritisation of funding statewide to ensure upgrades are delivered where they are needed most.

The recent fatal crash at the Bruce Highway, Allendale Drive and Bentley Drive intersection was tragic, and I acknowledge the community's request for traffic signals at this location. However, TMR advises that installing traffic signals at this intersection would not be an appropriate solution to improve safety. This is based on several factors including the road and speed environment, along with the semi-rural location. As a result, there is no plan to upgrade the intersection with traffic signals at this time.

I understand that the Queensland Police Service investigation into this crash is ongoing. However, I am also advised TMR is currently completing a further review of the Bruce Highway, Allendale Drive and Bentley Drive intersection following the fatal crash. The review is considering options, including pavement widening and linemarking changes, to improve safety at the intersection. This review will be completed in late-2019 and TMR will then carry out the recommended upgrades as soon as possible.

Under the \$12.6 billion Bruce Highway Upgrade Program, the Palaszczuk Government, in partnership with the Australian Government, is committed to improving road safety on the Bruce Highway, including on the Bruce Highway south of Townsville. Currently, the Palaszczuk Government is delivering \$43 million in safety upgrades, including widening, wide centre line treatment and overtaking lanes between Mailman Road and Mackenzie Creek.

TMR is also reviewing planning for a further \$7.2 million widening and wide centre line project from Mackenzie Creek through to north of Killymoon Creek.

The Palaszczuk Government is also planning to deliver targeted road safety upgrades including wide centre line treatments, intersection improvements and safer roadside treatments along the Bruce Highway between Vantassel Street and Cape Cleveland Road. TMR is completing planning for these upgrades and construction is expected to commence in 2020.

In addition to these infrastructure improvements, our government will continue its focus on improving road safety regulation and education. In Townsville recently, we legislated tough new drink driving laws which will help reduce drink driving and improve road safety outcomes.

As the Minister with responsibility for road safety, I will continue to push for road safety reform to ensure more Queenslanders get home safely.

Yours sincerely

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

MARK BAILEY MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads