



The Honourable Scott Emerson MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PET 12026

Your ref: 10.4 Petitions

28 APR 2014

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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 a petition number 2190-13 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Robbie Katter MP, Member for Mount Isa on 1 April 2014, about the Flinders Highway.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads acknowledges the importance of the Flinders and Barkly Highways as the backbone of north west Queensland's regional communities, and a key route that supports the economic pillars of mining and agriculture.

The department is pleased to provide the following advice about maintenance works on culvert humps, current flood damage works and future planning for the Flinders Highway.

Maintenance works – culvert humps

- In October 2012, the department identified humps on 22 sites.
- 21 of these were between Richmond and Hughenden and one on the eastern side of Hughenden. The worst 11 of these humps were rectified in December 2012 at a cost of \$1.21 million.
- The department is currently monitoring the remaining sites, some of which have deteriorated.
- In October 2013, speed reductions were put in place between Hughenden and Richmond and between Richmond and Julia Creek. The department is unable to remove these speed restrictions as they are a necessary measure, given the current road conditions.
- Business cases to apply for funding to repair the remaining sites are being developed by the department.

Current flood damage works

- The department is spending approximately \$50 million this financial year on pavement reconstruction works and surface rehabilitation on the Flinders Highway.
- Works have either commenced or are due to commence on various sections of the Flinders Highway, including sections of the Hughenden to Richmond stretch.

Future planning

- In the next financial year the department will:
 - prepare and submit a business case to apply for funding to rectify the remaining culverts
 - prepare and submit a business case to upgrade the Gilliat Channels, between Julia Creek and Cloncurry
 - complete a Flinders Highway flood study to determine a priority list for the most flood-prone sections. The study will examine both flood immunity and the economic impacts of flooding.
- The department is developing a Flinders and Barkly Highways strategy that includes the following priorities:
 - targeted safety initiatives and widening narrow pavements and structures
 - strengthening and rehabilitating ageing and vulnerable pavements and structures
 - providing targeted capacity improvements with additional overtaking lanes, as warranted by traffic volumes.

I advise that the 2013-14 budget has already been allocated to work currently underway.

I trust this information is of assistance. If you require further information, I encourage you to contact Mr David Atkinson, Regional Director (North Queensland) on 4421 8743. Mr Atkinson will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Scott Emerson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Scott Emerson MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads