



The Honourable Scott Emerson MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PET 12114

Your ref: 10.4 Petitions

21 MAY 2014

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition number 2253-14 lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 6 May 2014 about reinstating a pedestrian crossing on Gavial-Gracemere Road (Lawrie Street), Gracemere.

In Gracemere, as well as being the main arterial road servicing residential estates in the area, Lawrie Street acts as a link between the Bruce Highway, Burnett Highway and Capricorn Highway. The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is aware of traffic growth on Lawrie Street, driven by the accelerated residential and commercial development of the suburb in the past five years. With further residential sub-divisions proceeding and the nearby Gracemere Industrial Area, Lawrie Street traffic volumes now exceed 10,000 vehicles per day and will continue to grow into the future.

In the five year period leading up to a major safety project delivered by TMR in 2009, there were five recorded accidents at the pedestrian crossing on Lawrie Street. Four of these crashes involved rear-end collisions with vehicles which were stopped at the pedestrian crossing. This type of collision posed a serious risk to pedestrians using the crossing as vehicles may be forced forward due to the rear impact.

Following consultation with the local council, a safety project was delivered to improve both pedestrian safety and traffic flow.

In March 2009, TMR converted the pedestrian crossing on Lawrie Street in Gracemere to a pedestrian refuge as part of a \$550,000 safety upgrade to the Gracemere business precinct. A new roundabout at Russell Street, wide centre median on Lawrie Street, pedestrian refuge and reduced speed limit to 50km/h provided a balanced outcome for all road users by improving safety and providing a safe method for pedestrians to cross this busy section of road.

Pedestrian refuges are a recognised safe method of catering for pedestrians on busy roadways, and are used extensively throughout Queensland and Australia. Specifically, pedestrian refuges are adopted where traffic volumes are high, there is a history of crashes and pedestrian movements are low.

In Gracemere, the pedestrian refuge provides clear visibility for both pedestrians and motorists. Signage has also been erected for pedestrians clearly stating to only cross when the road is clear.

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The additional safety feature of a pedestrian refuge is that it allows pedestrians to cross the road in two stages.

As part of TMR state-wide planning program, Central Queensland Region has identified Gavial-Gracemere Link Planning as a priority for 2014-15. This project will consider the future investment required through Gracemere including pedestrian, cycling, public transport and commuter traffic.

In addition, Rockhampton Regional Council has offered to contribute in the order of \$500,000 from developer contributions for future works on Gavial-Gracemere Road. This funding will be a substantial contribution to completing planning and ultimate construction of projects on Lawrie Street to improve safety, access and traffic flow in coming years.

Until this planning is completed over the next 12 months, TMR will continue to monitor the pedestrian refuge and traffic flow on Lawrie Street to ensure the safety of both pedestrians and motorists.

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