



Hon Craig Wallace MP
Member for Thuringowa



Minister for Main Roads

Our ref: MC53164

Your ref: Petitions

12 NOV 2010

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


Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition number 1559-10 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Andrew Powell MP, Member for Glass House on 27 October 2010, about upgrading the Bruce Highway between the interchanges at Caloundra and Sippy Downs.

I am advised that the Department of Transport and Main Roads is undertaking planning into upgrading the Bruce Highway between the Caloundra and Sippy Downs interchanges. This planning will produce a business case for the staged delivery of the upgrade works.

The planning will focus on upgrades to three key priority areas:

- Sunshine Motorway interchange at Sippy Downs and a western service road to connect to Frizzo Road at the Ettamogah Pub
- Caloundra Road interchange and a western service road to connect to Frizzo Road at the Ettamogah Pub
- Upgrading the Bruce Highway from four to six lanes between the Caloundra and Sippy Downs interchanges.

The planning will also address the existing Bruce Highway northbound on-ramp at the Ettamogah Pub, the Sippy Creek Road intersection and the Wilson Road intersection with the Bruce Highway off-ramp to the Sunshine Motorway.

I am advised that the department will undertake community consultation in early 2011 and that planning is expected to be completed by late 2011.

Upgrading this section of the Bruce Highway is listed in *South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan and Program 2010-2031 (SEQIPP)* with an indicative delivery timeframe of 2014-15 to 2019-20. As the Bruce Highway is part of the national highway network that is funded through the Australian Government's *Nation Building Program*, the delivery of this project is subject to federal funding.

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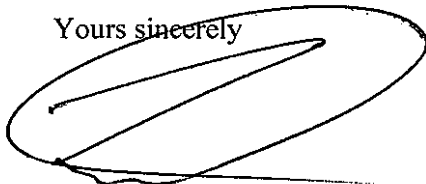
The current \$5 million planning study is funded by the state government. Following the development of a business case, the department will make a funding submission to the Australian Government under the five-year *Nation Building Program*.

I acknowledge the community's desire to fast track these important upgrades and can assure you that the department is progressing planning as quickly as possible. I am advised that the business case will detail a staged approach to ensure the highest priority safety upgrade works are undertaken in the quickest timeframe possible. Following the funding submission to the Australian Government, the department will continue to pursue funding for these upgrades.

You may also be aware that the Australian Government has allocated \$250 000 in funding under the *Building Australia Program Safety Initiative* to identify possible interim safety improvements for the Sippy Creek Road intersection and the northbound on-ramp from the Ettamogah Pub to the Bruce Highway. The department will pursue further funding under this program initiative to deliver early works aimed at improving safety. The business case for these interim works is due to be completed early 2011 and a funding submission will then be made to the Australian Government.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Craig Wallace', enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval.

Craig Wallace MP
Minister for Main Roads