



Hon Craig Wallace MP
Member for Thuringowa



Queensland
Government

Minister for Main Roads

Our ref: MC44496

Your ref: Petitions

08 OCT 2009

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to a petition number 1305-09 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr David Gibson MP, Member for Gympie, on 15 September 2009, about the Gympie office of the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

In accordance with Standing Orders, please find below my response to the petition.

Following realignment of local government boundaries in March 2008, the Department of Transport and Main Roads changed its regional boundaries to align with the new local government boundaries.

As part of the new regional structure, a new North Coast Region was established to service the high growth Sunshine Coast, Moreton Bay and Somerset Regional Council areas with offices on the Sunshine Coast and Caboolture. A small office has been opened at Caboolture and a new regional office is planned to be established in Maroochydore.

The North Coast Regional boundaries align with those of the South East Queensland (SEQ) planning region. As a result, the department is now better positioned to meet the challenges of high-growth areas in SEQ and delivery of the Roads Implementation Program (RIP).

The Gympie office (now located in the department's Wide Bay/Burnett Region) will become the point of engagement with the Gympie Regional Council, Cherbourg Aboriginal Council and South Burnett Regional Council areas for road network operations. In addition, the Gympie office will also provide support to the Bundaberg office throughout the rest of the Wide Bay/Burnett region, as necessary, on road issues.

The Queensland Government is committed to providing the best possible employment opportunities while delivering value for money infrastructure projects for Queenslanders.

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The transition from the previous regional boundaries, including the staffing of the new regional office at Maroochydore, will be implemented gradually over time.

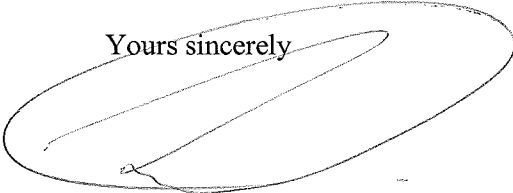
The department has made a commitment that no current permanent staff member will lose their job or be forced to relocate as a result of the changes. Consequently, all current, permanent North Coast Region staff will have the option to continue working on North Coast Region projects out of the Gympie office.

There will be no forced relocations and no job losses for these staff.

The department has and will continue to work and communicate with staff in Gympie regarding these changes and is committed to providing the best outcomes for all involved.

If you require further information, please call Mr Tony Platz, Acting General Manager (Assets and Operations) in Brisbane, on 3306 6714. Mr Platz will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely

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

Craig Wallace MP
Minister for Main Roads