



The Honourable Scott Emerson MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PET 12768

Your ref: 10.4 Petitions

3 SEP 2014

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to a petition number 2288-14 and 2245-14 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Stephen Bennett MP, Member for Burnett on 5 August 2014 about the Bundaberg–Port Road (locally known as FE Walker Street) and Ashfield Road intersection, Bundaberg.

The Bundaberg–Port Road (state-controlled road) and Ashfield Road (local government road) intersection is a four-way crossroad junction. As the main thoroughfare, Bundaberg–Port Road has priority and traffic movements from Ashfield Road are controlled by stop signs. On Bundaberg–Port Road, dedicated left and right turn lanes are provided at both approaches to the intersection for turning traffic. Ashfield Road consists of a shared through and right-turn lane with a short left slip lane on both approaches.

As part of the Department of Transport and Main Roads' (TMR) ongoing efforts to improve safety on the road network, the posted speed limit in this area was reduced from 100km/h to 80km/h prior to December 2006. Advance intersection warning and directional signs are also in place to alert motorists to the presence of the intersection and the potential for turning traffic, and lighting is in place to assist motorists with navigating the intersection at night.

Following representations from Mr Bennett and other members of the Bundaberg community following a serious crash on the adjacent local road network, TMR undertook a review of the intersection in April 2014. Two reported crashes were identified at the intersection in the past five years of validated data, which is considered low against the traffic volumes of this road (8400 AADT, 2012).

TMR also undertook a site inspection to observe traffic movements during the 8am to 9am weekday peak time when traffic volumes are highest. It was observed that motorists may feel overwhelmed when using this intersection during these times, due to the combination of high traffic volumes on Bundaberg–Port Road and high volumes of traffic turning into and out of Ashfield Road.

It was determined that while the intersection may benefit from an upgrade to assist motorists with the congestion experienced during peak times – particularly a 30 minute timeframe in the morning – the congestion is not experienced at other times throughout the day, and the performance of the intersection is considered acceptable outside that timeframe. Accordingly, it would be difficult to obtain funding for upgrade works in comparison to the competing priorities across the state-controlled road network.

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However, in recognition of the community's concerns about the intersection during school peak times, particularly from members of the school community located on Ashfield Road, TMR has investigated the potential of introducing a special reduced speed zone (60km/h) on Bundaberg–Port Road that would take effect during those morning and afternoon peak times.

TMR has prepared a recommendation to proceed with implementing the special reduced speed limit on Bundaberg–Port Road which will be presented to the Bundaberg Traffic Advisory Committee for consideration. The next meeting is scheduled for 18 September 2014. If endorsed, TMR will engage with Mr Bennett and the local community about the changes.

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