



Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and
Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply

Our ref: PET 22208

Your ref: 10.4 Petitions

17 JUL 2016

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition number 2776-17 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Shane Knuth MP, Member for Dalrymple on 16 June 2017 about Herberton–Petford Road.

My department has recently completed a gravel re-sheet of two sections of Herberton–Petford Road between Watsonville and Bakerville, and resealing of existing seals along this road to improve safety and comfort for road users. These sections were identified as being the highest priority by road inspectors, in consultation with Mareeba Shire Council (MSC), the road steward. They also form part of the local school bus route, and safety for students was a major consideration when determining priority locations.

I can advise that officers from my department and MSC carried out a joint inspection of the road on 18 May 2017, to inspect areas of concern raised by local residents. The inspection found that most of the rutting and erosion was repaired by recent maintenance grades and did not identify any further areas of concern. Inspectors noted that the road is in generally good condition, and safe for traffic that is driving in accordance with prevailing conditions. My department has also received feedback from local residents who say the recent grading has significantly improved conditions for local road users.

My department is currently assessing priorities for gravel re-sheeting works in 2017–18, and will allocate funding accordingly. Future upgrades on Herberton–Petford Road will be carried out as funding becomes available, in line with state-wide priorities. In the meantime, my department will continue to work closely with MSC to ensure that available maintenance resources are directed to the highest need areas.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Bailey".

MARK BAILEY MP
Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and
Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply