

## Minister for Transport and Main Roads

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22 December 2020

Mr Neil Laurie The Clerk of the Parliament Parliament House George Street BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition 3427-20, lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Michael Crandon MP, Member for Coomera on 1 December 2020 about the M1 Pacific Motorway Yatala South (Exit 41) interchange upgrade.

The Queensland Government is aware of the ongoing rapid industrial and residential development in the northern Gold Coast area that is adding pressure to busy M1 interchanges. Accordingly, planning for short- and long-term upgrades of various interchanges on the M1—including Exit 38 (Yatala North), Exit 41 (Yatala South), Exit 45 (Ormeau) and Exit 49 (Pimpama)—is in progress.

I understand the residents' concerns regarding expediting the upgrade of the Exit 41 interchange. I am pleased to advise that \$82.137 million in joint funding by the Australian and Queensland governments has been committed to delivering the Exit 41 upgrade, with early works already underway.

Detailed design is complete, and the main construction package is currently at tender, with major works planned to begin at the completion of early works which are scheduled to finish in March 2021. The main construction package is expected to take 18 months to complete, weather permitting. The upgrade will reduce queues on the M1 motorway and improve traffic flow through the interchange due to the construction of a new bridge across the M1 with additional lanes, the upgrade of roundabouts to traffic signals, new signalised intersections and the realignment of the motorway on-ramps and off-ramps.

Further information on this and other M1 interchange upgrade projects can be found on the Department of Transport and Main Roads' website at www.tmr.qld.gov.au by searching 'Pacific Motorway M1 Interchange upgrades'.

This project forms part of the recently announced \$1 billion in new and accelerated funding by the Australian and Queensland governments for high priority road improvements right across Queensland. This funding injection will deliver freight efficiency benefits, improve road safety, sustain local jobs and lift the state's economy. Overall, this \$1 billion of investment in road network improvements is estimated to support approximately 1000 jobs. However, it would be remiss of me not to alert petitioners to the fact that the M1 upgrade projects would likely be more advanced if it were not for three lost years under the former Newman LNP government. Under that government, not a single new dollar was spent on M1 upgrades and \$1.6 billion was cut from the roads and transport budget.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

MARK BAILEY MP Minister for Transport and Main Roads