



Hon Craig Wallace MP
Member for Thuringowa



Minister for Main Roads

Our ref: MC51361

- 8 SEP 2010

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Corner of Alice and George Streets
Brisbane Qld 4000



Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to a petition number 1508-10 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Shane Knuth MP, Member for Dalrymple, on 18 August 2010, about the placement of signs on Tablelands roads to increase awareness of cyclists to all road users.

I understand the community's concerns and would like to reassure them that the Department of Transport and Main Roads is working with cycle groups and community members to improve cycling facilities on the state-controlled road network and educate all road users about cyclist safety.

I am pleased to advise that a number of projects are underway or have been recently completed to improve safety for cyclists on the state-controlled road network. Current and completed projects and initiatives include:

- Work that is underway to improve the road surface on a 2.2km section of the Kennedy Highway south of Mareeba, between Gallo Drive and Vicary Road. This \$1.8 million project will restore the road surface and widen the road shoulders to improve cyclist safety. Work is scheduled to be complete in late October 2010.
- In October 2009, the road shoulders were widened on another 2.2km of the Kennedy Highway, south of Mareeba at a total cost of \$350 000.
- In August 2009, a \$1.8 million project was completed to widen the road shoulders and rehabilitate the road surface on the Kennedy Highway between Henry Hannam Drive and Vicary Road, south of Mareeba.
- In June 2009, road shoulders were widened on a one kilometre section of the Kennedy Highway between Tolga Scrub and Mazlin Creek Bridge, north of Atherton.
- The department, in conjunction with cyclist groups and local and state government agencies, undertook a cyclist safety awareness campaign in mid-2009. This campaign was aimed at educating all road users about cyclists on the road network and included targeted marketing on the Tablelands.

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Looking to the future, I am pleased to advise the department is working with the Atherton Cycle Club as part of the Tablelands Regional Council Traffic Advisory Committee (TRC-TAC) to improve bicycle route signage on local and state-controlled roads on the Atherton Tablelands. Representatives from Queensland Police Service and Tablelands Regional Council form part of this committee.

The committee's focus is on improving safety on the popular routes in the region through consultation with bicycle users. The TRC-TAC has identified key sites to locate bicycle awareness signage along these popular routes. The department identifies areas for possible signage on the state-controlled road network by considering factors, including safety, visibility and potential effectiveness on road users.

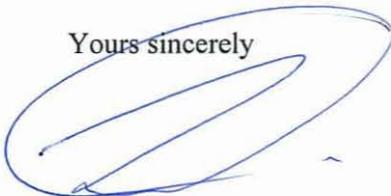
Evaluation of the sites has determined the majority of signs would be placed on council-controlled roads. Council does not currently have funds allocated for the specified signage, however, the department is negotiating with council to plan a coordinated delivery of the safety initiative once funds become available.

I am further advised the department will investigate the possibility of installing further traffic signs on the Kennedy Highway to increase awareness of cyclists on the state-controlled road network. This investigation will include discussion with key stakeholders in the TRC-TAC at their next meeting.

The department is committed to improving safety for cyclists on the Atherton Tablelands and the greater Far North region and will continue to incorporate bicycle-related infrastructure on the existing state-controlled road network and into future upgrade projects where possible.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

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

Craig Wallace MP
Minister for Main Roads