



Hon. Paul Lucas MP



**Queensland
Government**

Our ref: MC5978

Minister for
Transport and Main Roads

17 AUG 2004

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

Dear Mr Laurie

**Re: Petition about improved safety at intersection of Marshall Road and Kurts Street
Holland Park**

Thank you for your letter of 23 April 2004 enclosing the petition that was lodged by Mr Gary Fenlon MP, Member for Greenslopes in Parliament on 20 April 2004 about installation of safety measures at the intersection of Marshall Road and Kurts Street, Holland Park. I apologise for the delay in responding.

One of the safety measures suggested is the installation of a red light camera at this location. The primary criterion for choosing a red light camera site is the number of crashes that have occurred at that site. Queensland Transport conducts regular analyses of crashes occurring at intersections and those caused by a driver disobeying a red light are flagged in the system. Intersections with these types of crashes are listed in rank order, based on individual approaches to the intersection.

I am advised that the intersection at Marshall Road and Kurts Street, Holland Park was evaluated in late 2003 for its suitability as a red light camera site. This evaluation showed that, based on crash history, this location did not fall within the top 200 proposed red light camera candidate sites in Queensland.

However, the Queensland Police Service has the ability to recommend red light camera locations based on red light running. Intersections are investigated after public complaints are received and entered into a police complaints database. Following earlier representations by Mr Gary Fenlon MP, Member for Greenslopes, on behalf of the Marshall Road State School Community, this matter was referred to the Honourable Judy Spence MP, Minister for Police and Corrective Services for consideration of any action deemed necessary.

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On the issue of a 40km/h reduced speed limit, school zones are installed in accordance with the provisions of the *Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices* (MUTCD) and the *School Environment Safety Guidelines* (SESG). The aim of the MUTCD is to ensure that speed limits are consistent and credible throughout the State. This in turn delivers road safety outcomes and compliance with speed limits. Inconsistent and perceived inappropriate limits can lead to motorists disobeying the posted speed limits across the road network. The SESG give best practice guidance about enhancing road safety around schools.

Under the MUTCD and SESG, school zones are not permitted on multilane arterial roads such as Marshall Road. This is because road safety practitioners are concerned that they would not be effective in improving road safety, and could in fact compromise the safety of children.

It is highly unlikely that a majority of motorists would comply with a 40km/h speed limit on multilane roads because they expect to be able to travel faster and have fewer delays on higher standard roads, consistent with similar roads across the State. If a 40km/h speed limit is placed on such a road, and compliance with the posted speed limit is low, pedestrian safety could be compromised. This is because the pedestrians think the cars are travelling a lot slower than they actually are, causing them to misjudge the time gap available for them to cross the road. This is a particular concern for child pedestrians, as they are recognised as having difficulty judging speed and distance of oncoming vehicles. If you are interested in accessing the *School Environment Safety Guidelines*, they are available on the road safety website at <http://www.roadsafety.qld.gov.au>. (Section 26 is the relevant part).

Both Marshall Road and Kurts Street are Local Government roads and come under the control of the Brisbane City Council. As such, the Council has the responsibility for speed limits and traffic matters on these roads. This includes the provision of flashing warning devices and road markings. I understand that the Brisbane City Council is working with the school community to address safety concerns that have been raised and is investigating the possible use of flashing lights and threshold treatments.

I trust this information addresses the issues raised.

~~Yours~~ sincerely

PAUL LUCAS MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads