



Hon. Paul Lucas MP



**Queensland
Government**

Our ref: MC12836

Your ref: 448-05

**Minister for
Transport and Main Roads**

29 JUL 2005

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

Dear Mr ~~Laurie~~ *Neil*

**Re: Petition received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly No. 448-05
Request for pedestrian crossing on Ernest Street, between Edith and Lily Streets,
and traffic lights at the intersection of Ernest and Edith Streets**

I refer to a petition lodged with the Legislative Assembly by the Honourable Warren Pitt MP, Member for Mulgrave, on 22 March 2005 requesting that a pedestrian crossing be installed on Ernest Street (part of the Bruce Highway), between Edith Street and Lily Street in Innisfail, and traffic lights at the intersection of Ernest and Edith Streets.

The federal government is responsible for funding the National Network, which includes the Bruce Highway. The Department of Main Roads makes submissions for funding, based on priorities; however, the final decision on what projects will be funded rests with the federal government.

Main Roads has worked with officers of the Johnstone Shire Council to determine the best medium- to long-term access arrangements to and from the Bruce Highway, that will also connect with council's road network through the Central Business District (CBD).

This process has established the intersections of McGowan Drive, Lily Street and Grace Street as the agreed locations for access to and from the CBD. It is not possible to upgrade all intersections. Upgrading these priority intersections will provide adequate access to and from the CBD, along the route preferred by council. The intersection of Edith and Ernest Streets is not planned as a major access point to the CBD for the medium to long term; therefore, there are no proposals to install traffic lights at this intersection.

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The McGowan Drive intersection has been upgraded, with the recent opening of a new roundabout. In recognition of the extra traffic that will be generated by the new K-Mart store and the priority intersections agreed with council, Main Roads is considering a proposal for traffic lights at the Lily Street intersection and will forward a request for funding for this project to the federal government shortly. These proposed works include pedestrian facilities.

I note the petitioners' concern about pedestrian safety on Ernest Street, and I am advised that Main Roads is looking into what measures may be implemented to improve the situation. An investigation of pedestrian traffic numbers and patterns at this location is also being carried out. Main Roads hopes to finalise the investigation in September 2005. Should the nearby priority intersections be upgraded, pedestrian traffic will also be encouraged to use those intersections as safe crossing points, in preference to this location.

Yours sincerely

PAUL LUCAS MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads