



Hon. Paul Lucas MP



Queensland
Government

Our ref: MC16959

Your ref: 549-05

Minister for
Transport and Main Roads

31 OCT 2005

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Neil

Re: Increasing heavy vehicle movements at Sandy Creek - Homebush Road

I refer to a petition lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 5 October 2005 by Mr Ted Malone MP, Member for Mirani, about the increase in heavy vehicle movements at Sandy Creek on Homebush Road.

Urgent repairs to Sandy Creek Bridge were completed on 13 October 2005 at a cost of \$200 000. These works have enabled over-dimensional vehicles to again use Homebush Road as an alternative to the Peak Downs Highway and Mackay-Eungella Road.

The replacement of Sandy Creek Bridge has been included in the Regional Bridge Renewal Program announced by the Honourable Peter Beattie MP, Premier and Treasurer.

Planning and design will commence this financial year with construction planned for the 2006-07 financial year. The estimated cost of the work is \$6.0m.

The state government is fully aware of the role of road infrastructure to the ongoing expansion of the Northern Bowen Basin Coal industry.

For example, the government has spent \$22m on the Peak Downs Highway in the past 4 years. The works have included upgrading of 50.5km of road, provision of 10 overtaking lanes and 1 climbing lane and repairs to timber bridges at Fiery and Cut Creeks.

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A further \$30m is proposed over the next 4 years. Works will include another 4 overtaking lanes, another climbing lane on Eton Range and replacement of the timber bridges at Perry and Blackwaterhole Creeks.

In addition, Main Roads will commence planning for the upgrading of Peak Downs Highway at Walkerston in the 2006-07 financial year.

Yours sincerely

PAUL LUCAS MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads