



Hon. Paul Lucas MP



Queensland
Government

Our ref: MC17275

Minister for
Transport and Main Roads

Your ref: 556-05

19 DEC 2005

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Re: Petition No. 556-05: Kenilworth-Eumundi Road

I refer to a petition lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Peter Wellington MP, Member for Nicklin, on 25 October 2005 about heavy vehicles using the Eumundi-Kenilworth Road.

The Department of Main Roads has advised that speed limits in Queensland are set in accordance with Part 4 of the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). This process ensures that road users can be confident that speed limits are set in a consistent manner across the state and that they are appropriate for normal driving conditions.

Experience and research in Australia and overseas have demonstrated that arbitrarily imposed low speed limits attract poor levels of compliance unless continuous enforcement is undertaken. However, realistic and credible speed limits will be observed by the majority of road users and can be effective in regulating traffic flow, reducing crashes and maximising safety.

When conducting a speed limit review, other factors such as crash history are taken into consideration. Once the speed review is completed, it is tabled at a meeting of the Speed Management Committee. These committees are formed in each local government area and have representatives from the local government, the Queensland Police Service, Queensland Transport and Main Roads. The committee then makes a recommendation on the appropriate speed limit based on the review.

Officers of Main Roads carried out a speed limit review on the full length of Eumundi-Kenilworth Road in August 2005. This review recommended that the existing 100km/h speed limit be retained and the 80km/h speed limit, in place from 7:30am to 9:00am and 3:00pm to 4:00pm on school days, also remain to ensure the safety of school buses. Main Roads recommendations were approved by the Maroochy Speed Management Committee on 20 September 2005.

Eumundi-Kenilworth Road has no special designation and can be used by any registered, legally loaded trucks. However, the growth in the number of passenger and commercial vehicles has been recognised, especially sand and gravel trucks.

Since 1987, Main Roads has been progressively replacing the timber bridges and upgrading the road by improving the alignment and widening the bitumen seal. In 2000, there was a \$2.9m project to replace the Belli Creek No 1 bridge and upgrade 1.1km of road. In 2001, a \$4.7m project replaced the Belli Creek No 3 bridge and upgraded 1.3km of road. In 2003, a \$4.2m project upgraded 2km of road west of Strong Lane. In September 2005, work started on a \$6.7m project to replace the Eerwah Creek bridge and upgrade of 1.4km of road between Eerwah Creek and Browns Creek Road. This project is expected to be completed mid-2006.

Main Roads has plans to replace the Belli Creek Number 2 bridge and upgrade the road approaches, including the Browns Road intersection. Funding for this project will be considered in future reviews of the Roads Implementation Program. Until the bridge is replaced, Main Roads will continue to maintain it in a safe condition.

Yours sincerely

PAUL LUCAS MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads