



Hon. Paul Lucas MP



**Queensland
Government**

Our ref: MC25501

Minister for
Transport and Main Roads

Your ref:

- 4 DEC 2006

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Re: Petition No. 723-06

I refer to a petition lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Ms Rosa Lee Long MP, Member for Tablelands, requesting the one-lane bridge over Rifle Creek on the Peninsula Developmental Road be upgraded to a two-lane structure.

I have been advised that following issues raised by Ms Lee Long in July this year, the Department of Main Roads trimmed vegetation adjacent to the bridge to improve visibility. An additional 'Give Way Ahead' sign was installed to remind traffic approaching the bridge of the need and responsibility to slow and give way. Other existing signs on the bridge approaches include 'Narrow Bridge - One Lane', two 'Give Way' signs on the southern approach and a 'Reduce Speed' on the northern approach.

The state government has responsibility for more than 2 800 bridges on the State-controlled Road Network and takes very seriously the need to ensure safety on bridges on its network. For example, the state government last year announced a special initiative to upgrade bridges on the state-controlled network throughout regional Queensland, under the Regional Bridge Replacement Program, targeting a priority list of 100 bridges for the first round of funding.

Bridges are assessed for upgrading on a priority basis, taking into account a number of factors. These include safety issues, such as structural condition and accident history, as well as issues such as its role on the road network, traffic volumes and the percentage of heavy vehicles that use the bridge.

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I have been advised that Main Roads has assessed the Rifle Creek Bridge and found that it is currently in a fair structural condition. Department of Main Roads records show that there have been no recorded traffic accidents on this bridge within the past five years. Given this assessment, the adequate signage advising drivers of their legal responsibility when approaching the bridge and other demands on funding, the bridge over Rifle Creek is not currently listed as a priority for upgrading. Main Roads will continue to monitor the bridge and to assess its future priority for upgrading along with other bridges across the network.

The state government has spent some \$41m over the past five years on upgrading and maintenance works on the Peninsula Developmental Road. This included replacement of the Morehead River Bridge and sealing and realignment of the Byerstown Range crossing near Lakeland.

I am advised that Main Roads has notified local police that it may be necessary to carry out enforcement activities in this area, if motorists are not obeying the speed limit of 70km/hr on this section.

Yours sincerely

PAUL LUCAS MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads