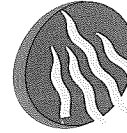
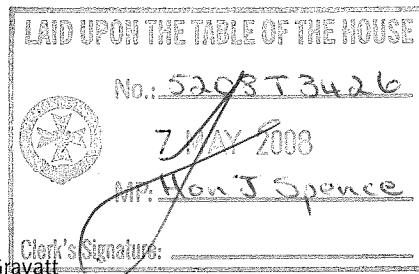




**Judy Spence MP**

Member for Mount Gravatt



**Queensland  
Government**

Ref: 8583 F2 LS

Office of the  
**Minister for Police and  
Corrective Services**

**30 APR 2008**

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Queensland Parliamentary Service  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I am writing to provide my response to petition number 924-07 which was lodged by Mr Peter Wellington MP, Member for Nicklin, and received by the Legislative Assembly on 11 October 2007.

The petition seeks increased police patrols of Eumundi-Kenilworth Road focusing on speeding vehicles and tailgating offences, and the installation of a fixed speed camera.

I have received the following information from the Queensland Police Service in response to the issues raised.

Police from the Sunshine Coast District Traffic Branch, Eumundi, Imbil and Kenilworth Stations perform regular speed enforcement duties to detect and deter speeding and other traffic offences on the Eumundi-Kenilworth Road. The Police Service operates a mix of both marked and unmarked vehicles for purposes of traffic enforcement. Unmarked police vehicles are deployed throughout Queensland, generally as part of district traffic branches, to assist in heightening both the specific and general deterrence effect associated with traffic enforcement.

The detection rate of speeding offences pertaining to trucks on the Eumundi-Kenilworth Road is very low, with only one truck detected speeding during the past 12 months. The vast majority of speeding infringement notices were issued to car drivers.

Two truck related crashes on the Eumundi-Kenilworth Road have been reported to police over the 12 month period commencing 31 January 2007. One of these was a fatal crash and the other a non-injury accident. The police advise that the truck drivers involved in these particular incidents were not considered at fault.

In the same 12 month period, two single vehicle traffic crashes on this road were reported to police. In both cases the vehicles struck animals and the drivers suffered injuries.

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The offence of 'tailgating' is provided for under section 126 'Keeping a safe distance behind vehicles' of the *Transport Operations (Road Use Management – Road Rules) Regulation 1999* which states:

*A driver must drive a sufficient distance behind a vehicle travelling in front of the driver so the driver can, if necessary, stop safely to avoid a collision with the vehicle.*

The Police Service recognises the anxiety and frustration experienced by drivers who are 'tailgated', and the dangers associated with this type of behaviour. The police actively enforce this provision both as part of routine traffic patrols and through special operations targeting particular types of offences and localities.

Following a review of traffic offence penalties, the penalty for this offence was increased on 1 March 2007 from \$30 and one demerit point to \$175 and one demerit point.

The identification of an offence under section 126 requires an assessment of whether the follow distance is safe in the circumstances. This involves consideration of factors such as the speed and volume of traffic, the road and weather conditions, visibility at the time, and the types of vehicles involved.

In order to assist the police in enforcing this offence provision, the Police Service has recently acquired equipment which can accurately measure distances between travelling vehicles. This equipment will enhance the capability of the police to detect and take appropriate action in regard to this offence.

The Police Service will continue to monitor emerging technologies for detecting 'tailgating' with a view to assessing their potential for future use in Queensland.

In regard to the request for the installation of a fixed speed camera, I can advise that the operation of speed cameras is a proven road safety strategy. The installation of the initial three fixed cameras has already occurred and I am pleased to advise further fixed cameras will be installed in more locations across the State in due course.

The selection of suitable sites for the installation of fixed speed cameras is dependent upon a number of factors, including road trauma history. Fixed speed cameras have been installed in locations with an identified speed crash history and where it is difficult for police to conduct enforcement.

The Fixed Speed Camera Project team will consider the site nominated as part of the strategic implementation process.

Our Government remains firmly committed to reducing the road trauma on our roads through the implementation of innovative road safety strategies and initiatives.


The Queensland Police Service is also strongly committed to keeping the roads safer for all road users and will continue to perform enforcement patrols of the Eumundi-Kenilworth Road.

Superintendent Ben Hanbidge, District Officer, Sunshine Coast Police District is available on telephone 5475 2401 for any further assistance required.

The petition also requests the completion of upgrading work to the Eumundi-Kenilworth Road. I note this issue has been addressed by the Honourable Warren Pitt MP, Minister for Main Roads and Local Government.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Judy Spence". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

**Judy Spence MP**  
Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Sport