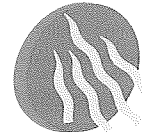




Hon Craig Wallace MP
Member for Thuringowa



**Queensland
Government**

Our ref: MC47655

Minister for Main Roads

Your ref: Petitions

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

Dear Mr *Neil* Laurie

I refer to a petition number 1371-10 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Jason O'Brien MP, Member for Cook on 10 February 2010, requesting the installation of traffic lights at the intersection of Byrnes and Atherton Streets, Mareeba.

Safety of all road users, including pedestrians, is a priority for the Department of Transport and Main Roads, and all safety concerns raised are investigated.

The department is considering improvements to the Byrnes and Atherton Streets intersection to improve safety for pedestrians at this location. The department has submitted an application for funding through the Safer Roads Sooner Program to upgrade the crossing in the 2010-11 financial year.

Initial planning has been carried out to assess traffic flow and pedestrian movements at the intersection, and design work is underway. Initial discussions have also occurred with Tablelands Regional Council and Queensland Police Service at Traffic Advisory Committee meetings in recent months.

If this funding application is successful, the department will engage with key stakeholders, including local businesses and residents to determine how best to improve safety for pedestrians within available funds. Improvements may include changes to line marking, kerbing, increased signage and installation of a central refuge island to assist pedestrians crossing Byrnes and Atherton Streets. Traffic signals were considered during planning and the department advises signals are not a preferred option to manage pedestrian safety at this location.

Traffic signals are not warranted at this location due to current traffic volumes in accordance with the Department's Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices 2003. Traffic signals would impact on efficiency of traffic movements on Byrnes Street. In addition, traffic signals would be beyond the capacity of available funding.

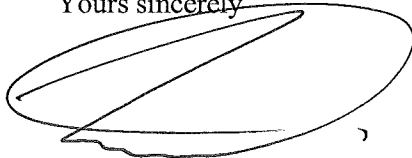
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The department is looking to make improvements to the Byrnes and Atherton Streets intersection as part of an overall pedestrian and motorist safety strategy for Mareeba. The improvements suggested above, such as installation of a central refuge island, will be consistent with this strategy.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

If you require further information, please call Mr Michael Ringer, Senior Engineer (Road Operations) in Cairns, on 4050 5539. Mr Ringer will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Wallace', is written over a large, hand-drawn oval shape.

Craig Wallace MP
Minister for Main Roads