



Hon Craig Wallace MP
Member for Thuringowa



Our ref: MC53864

Minister for Main Roads

Your ref: Petitions

6 DEC 2010

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to a petition number 1577-10 lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 23 November 2010 by Mr Andrew Cripps MP, Member for Hinchinbrook, requesting the speed limit on the Bruce Highway through El Arish be reduced from 80km/h to 60km/h.

The 80km/h speed limit on this section of the highway has been set in accordance with the Queensland Government's Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices 2003, which outlines Australian Standards for speed zones and signage.

In determining speed limits for any section of road, the Department of Transport and Main Roads considers road function, prevailing measured traffic speeds, the speed environment and crash history.

In response to community requests, the department has conducted a review of the speed limit at this location, including an assessment of road function, environment and crash history and discussion with the Queensland Police Service.

As a result of this review, the department considers the existing 80km/h speed limit to be appropriate for this location. Visibility for both northbound and southbound traffic is good and the intersection design at the El Arish-Mission Beach Road intersection, which consists of a left-turn lane and passing lane for northbound traffic, meets current standards for traffic volumes. There is also a low reported crash history within the 80km/h speed limit zone.

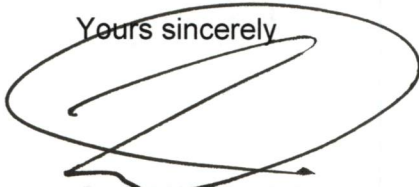
The department will lengthen the existing 80km/h speed limit zone by about 200 metres at the northern and southern entrances to the town, to give motorists more time to slow to the 80km/h speed limit as they approach the town. The existing speed limit signs will be shifted in accordance with this change. Maintenance of the highway, including regular mowing and trimming of vegetation, will continue to be a priority to ensure adequate visibility is maintained for motorists travelling through El Arish.

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Safety of all motorists is a priority for the Department of Transport and Main Roads. The department will continue to monitor the Bruce Highway through El Arish to ensure the road is safe for all road users.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Wallace', written over the 'Yours sincerely' text.

Craig Wallace MP
Minister for Main Roads