



Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports
Minister for Energy and Water Supply

Our ref: PET 15673

Your ref: 10.4 Petitions

11 NOV 2015

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition numbers 2414-15 and 2471-15 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Aaron Harper MP, Member for Thuringowa on 13 October 2015, about safety concerns of the community in relation to Hervey's Range Road, Townsville.

It is my pleasure to confirm that as I announced with the Member for Thuringowa on 6 November 2015 in Townsville, the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is undertaking planning and detailed design for works to widen the remaining narrow sections of Hervey's Range Road, between Lynam Road and Black River Road.

This \$6.17 million project is being funded entirely under the Palaszczuk Government's Safer Roads Sooner program and will involve widening and strengthening priority sections of road and installing wide centreline markings to improve safety and capacity.

The planning and detailed design work currently underway will assist TMR to determine the highest priority sections of road to be widened with the available funding.

Upgrades to the Granitevale Road intersection, to provide for safe turning and passage, are being considered as part of this planning work.

TMR will also be widening the road shoulders to provide a safer passageway for cyclists, in accordance with design standards for rural roads.

While I understand the concerns of cyclists and the community and their wish to see bicycle lanes installed along Hervey's Range Road, it should be noted that dedicated bicycle lanes, such as those along Ross River Road, are designed for urban roads. They are therefore not intended to be installed as part of this project.

I have however directed TMR to continue to work with the community to ensure the utmost safety for motorists and cyclists along this road.

New wide centreline markings will also provide a wider, safer gap between oncoming vehicles, and are designed to help reduce the potential for head-on crashes.

I am pleased to advise that TMR anticipates that planning and detailed design for this project will be completed in March 2016, with the final project scope to be available to the public at that time and construction expected to commence in mid-2016.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mark Bailey', with a stylized, flowing script.

MARK BAILEY MP
Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and
Minister for Energy and Water Supply