



Minister for Transport and Main Roads Minister for Digital Services

Our ref: PET 52513
Your ref: A1239607

14 March 2024

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition 4028-24, lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 13 February 2024 about a request for noise barriers at Thuringowa.

I am pleased to advise that the construction on the Townsville Ring Road Stage 5 (TRR5) project was completed in September 2023 and the project delivers improved road safety, efficiency and travel time reliability for freight and passenger vehicles on the Bruce Highway in Townsville. The TRR5 project has duplicated the last remaining two-lane section of the Townsville Ring Road between Vickers Bridge and Shaw Road. The six-kilometre project also included construction of an interchange at Beck Drive, with new on- and off-ramps to provide access for all directions of travel.

Noise impacts of this project were assessed in accordance with the Department of Transport and Main Roads' (TMR) Transport Noise Management Code of Practice (the Code). TMR undertook noise assessments prior to construction in 2021, to determine existing and future predicted road traffic noise levels at properties surrounding the Ring Road and Beck Drive, including at Carlyle Gardens.

Where road traffic noise levels were predicted to exceed the acceptable limits set out in the Code (that is, 68 dB(A) for residences on existing roads), noise mitigation was incorporated in the TRR5 project design. The location and design of the noise barriers was determined following modelling of the current and future road use of the Townsville Ring Road and surrounding road network, and in consultation with Carlyle Gardens residents.

I can advise that residents of Carlyle Gardens have been continuously engaged throughout the construction of TRR5 and noise attenuation barriers have been installed as part of the project in accordance with noise modelling reports.

The Principal Contractor for TRR5, Georgiou Group, is required to undertake post construction noise monitoring no earlier than six months after the completion of works to verify that the noise model produced for the project is accurate. The post-construction noise modelling was proposed for early April 2024.

In support of the requests from residents of Carlyle Gardens, I am pleased to advise that TMR negotiated with Georgiou Group to bring forward the post-construction noise modelling, which commenced on 5 March 2024.

Noise monitoring equipment was placed in several locations throughout Carlyle Gardens and was to remain for 14 days. However, recent consistent rain is impacting the ability to gather usable data, and further rain over the next couple of weeks may also extend this timeframe.

Once data has been collated, a report will be provided to TMR to deliver to Carlyle Gardens. If post-construction noise levels exceed recommended levels, further work will be done to determine what noise attenuation methods can be implemented to ensure compliance with the Code.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BART MELLISH".

BART MELLISH MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads
Minister for Digital Services