



Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PET PET55094
Your ref: A1345150

26 NOV 2024

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

Dear Mr ~~Laurie~~ *Neil*

I refer to the interim response to petition 4171-24, about the Barron River bridge and the proposal for a new inland highway between the Tablelands and Cairns, by the former Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services, Mr Bart Mellish MP, which was tabled on 11 October 2024.

On 1 November 2024, I was appointed as Minister for Transport and Main Roads and, as such, I am now the responsible Minister to respond to this petition.

Issues with the Barron River bridge have been well known for a long while and it is regrettable that the previous Labor Government did not act sooner to provide a solution.

I have been informed that the business case, which is essential to determining the best long-term solution, will be delivered in December 2024.

To ensure public safety and the continued use of the bridge in the interim, the Department of Transport and Main Roads has implemented a structured program of regular assessments and maintenance. While the resulting disruptions—including intermittent single-lane traffic—are inconvenient, they are indispensable to secure a reliable and safe crossing.

Calls for an alternative future connection between Cairns and the Tablelands are noted, however, the Crisafulli Government's focus is on delivering a long-term solution to the Barron River bridge given the important role it plays in the current road network.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

BRENT MICKELBERG MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads