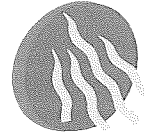




Hon Craig Wallace MP
Member for Thuringowa



Queensland
Government

Our ref: MC47530

Minister for Main Roads

Your ref: 1279-09

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to a petition number 1279-09 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr David Gibson MP, Member for Gympie on 10 February 2010, about the North Coast Regional office of the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

In accordance with Standing Orders, please find below my response to the petition.

The decision to relocate the North Coast Regional office of the former Main Roads department from Gympie to Maroochydore is an outcome of the rationalisation of local government boundaries in March 2008.

The North Coast Regional office has provided excellent service for the Sunshine Coast region over many years. However, the amalgamation resulted in the formation of the Sunshine Coast Regional Council, which is based in Maroochydore.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads enjoys a close relationship with its local government partners and in the interests of building the relationship with the newly formed Sunshine Coast Regional Council the department took the decision to relocate its regional office to Maroochydore.

In addition, the North Coast Regional boundaries now align with those of the South East Queensland (SEQ) planning region. As a result, the department is better positioned to meet the challenges of high growth areas in SEQ and delivery of the Roads Implementation Program (RIP). Providing value for money infrastructure projects is a priority for the Queensland Government, particularly in these challenging economic times.

As the petition correctly points out, no current, permanent North Coast Regional officers have been, or will be, forced to relocate from Gympie to Maroochydore. Gympie will remain a vital part of the Transport and Main Roads Regional office network, providing a wide range of services within the Wide Bay-Burnett region.

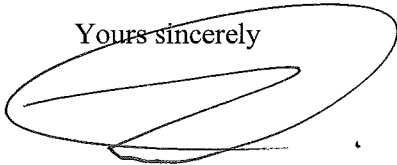
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Gympie will continue to provide a range of cross-boundary skills and resources to the North Coast Region. The department recently appointed a District Director, based at Gympie, to plan and provide for the transport needs of Gympie and surrounding local government areas, including the Cherbourg Aboriginal Council.

Any transition of staff from the Gympie office to either Bundaberg or to Maroochydore will be the decision of the officers themselves and is therefore likely to occur over a period of some years.

There will be no job losses for staff, ensuring that those families choosing to remain will continue to support business and community groups over the coming years.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Craig Wallace', enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval.

Craig Wallace MP
Minister for Main Roads