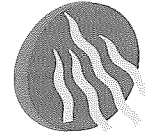




Hon Craig Wallace MP
Member for Thuringowa



**Queensland
Government**

Our ref: MC44774

Minister for Main Roads

Your ref: Petitions

3 NOV 2009

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition number 1312-09 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Chris Foley MP, Member for Maryborough on 17 September 2009, requesting the replacement of the Mary River bridge on Mungar Road near Tiaro.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads is currently investing in a regional bridge renewal program, replacing ageing timber bridges with concrete structures able to accommodate current and future freight load demands. The program is aimed at bridges on strategic routes such as the Burnett Highway and Wide Bay Highway. The priority for investment is to ensure these high-volume strategic freight and transport routes are not restricted in use.

Mungar Road is classified a lower-order route, based on the low traffic volumes and its location, that is, it runs parallel to the Bruce Highway which is a major freight route. An alternative route for local traffic to Mungar Road is via the Bruce Highway when flooding occurs.

As the Mary River bridge is a low-level bridge located in a low-speed environment, guardrail is not preferred as it can catch debris and increases the risk of structural damage and contributes to the closure time of the bridge following flood events. In 2009, the department undertook vegetation clearing and improved the reflective delineation of the bridge to improve visibility.

At this stage, the department has no projects identified in its *Roads Implementation Program 2009-10 to 2013-14* to replace the Mary River bridge. However, the department will continue to monitor and maintain the bridge to ensure it remains in a safe condition for motorists.

If you require further information, please call Mr Stephen Mallows, Manager of Program, Development and Delivery in Bundaberg, on 4154 0285. Mr Mallows will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely

Craig Wallace MP
Minister for Main Roads

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