

Ms Jan Jarratt MP
Member for Whitsunday
PO Box 1302
Proserpine Qld 4800

Dear Ms Jarratt

Thank you for the petitions lodged by you on 26 February and 11 March 2003, with the Legislative Assembly, about the four-laning of the Mackay to Bucasia Road.

The Department of Main Roads completed the Mackay-Bucasia Road Corridor Study in April 2001. This study identified the highest priority works as upgrading of the existing intersections.

The state government committed \$10.4m to these intersection upgrades in the Roads Implementation Program (RIP) 2001-02 to 2005-06.

Main Roads has completed the construction of roundabouts at Holts and Golf Links Roads intersections at a cost of \$2.4m.

A \$6.4m project is currently underway at Rural View on Bucasia Road. These works include the construction of a roundabout at Wallmans Road, signalisation of Sologinkins Road intersection and the new Eimeo Road link. The intersection works will address the congestion issues that occur on the Mackay-Bucasia Road each morning. The new Eimeo Road Link should greatly improve safety around the Eimeo Primary School.

The department has also programmed works for the signalisation of the George Fordyce Road intersection.

Main Roads will consider the duplication of Bucasia Road to four lanes for inclusion in future RIPs, when warranted, based on statewide priorities for similar types of works.

I note that the petitions raise concerns with the section of Bucasia Road between Eimeo Road turn-off and the Golf Links-Habana Roads intersection being the only access to the northern beaches. This will remain the case even with the duplication of Bucasia Road.

Mackay City Council's Strategic Plan identifies future additional routes to Bucasia Road. These include a sub-arterial road to the west and a collector street to the east. Construction of these routes would provide a road network linking the northern beaches area to the existing Mackay Road network.

Councillor Rolls should address the road network issue through Mackay City Council.

Thank you for bringing this petition to my attention.

Yours sincerely

Original signed 25.03.03

Steve Bredhauer
**Minister for Transport
and Minister for Main Roads
Member for Cook**