



Hon Craig Wallace MP
Member for Thuringowa



**Minister for Main Roads, Fisheries
and Marine Infrastructure**

Our ref: PP1658-11

Your ref: Petitions

27 APR 2011

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition number 1658-11 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Ray Hopper MP, Member for Condamine, on 24 March 2011, about the intersection of the Warrego Highway, Kingsthorpe-Goombungee Road and Gowrie Mountain School Road.

The Warrego Highway forms part of the federally-funded National Network. Inadequate funding by previous federal governments over an extended period has resulted in a backlog of construction, rehabilitation and maintenance needs on the National Network throughout Queensland.

The department's upgrade strategy for the Warrego Highway from Helidon to Morven, identifies the need to invest \$380m over four years (2010-11 to 2013-14), to deliver the most urgently needed works.

A joint submission to the federal government by the Bligh Government and southern Queensland local governments outlining these needs was completed in July 2010. This submission included \$8 million for planning activities associated with the four-laning of the highway between Toowoomba and Oakey.

The intersection of the Warrego Highway and Kingsthorpe-Goombungee Road has been identified for upgrading as part of that strategy. Any further development applications in this area impacting on the Warrego Highway may be required to contribute to, or improve, this intersection including the possible construction of an overpass. These contributions could bring construction timelines forward.

However, in the federal Nation Building Program (2009-2014), \$55m has been committed by the Federal Government to the Warrego Highway, including \$40m for widening and strengthening works between Roma and Mitchell, as well as \$5m for construction of new or upgraded rest areas between Toowoomba and Morven.

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A further \$10m has also been promised by the Federal Government for overtaking lanes on the Warrego Highway between Oakey and Dalby. The department is currently in the planning stages for these projects.

Work has started on widening a 1.4km section of the Warrego Highway east of Oakey, between Brimblecombe and Henningsen Roads, to provide a westbound overtaking lane to improve safety and the efficiency of the highway. This project is funded under the Federal Government's Black Spot Program.

In addition, I have announced that additional funding will be invested on the Warrego Highway in road safety measures under the Safer Roads Sooner program to improve conditions at accident hot spots, including the installation of fatigue management signage at various locations.

The Warrego Highway between Macalister and Warra will be upgraded in a \$12m state-funded project to improve flood immunity which will be carried out in conjunction with Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) restoration work on the highway. When completed, the overall upgrade will widen this 13km section of the highway to 10 metres wide.

I can assure you, the state government will continue to seek additional funds from the federal government for works on the Warrego Highway.

Yours sincerely



Craig Wallace MP
**Minister for Main Roads, Fisheries
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