



Hon Craig Wallace MP
Member for Thuringowa



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

Our ref: MCPP1682-11

Your ref: Petitions

14 DEC 2011

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

Dear *Neil* Mr Laurie

I refer to a petition number 1682-11 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Aidan McLindon MP, Member for Beaudesert on 17 November 2011 about the intersection of Southport–Nerang Road and Edmund Rice Drive in Southport.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads advises that Southport–Nerang Road is a major arterial route from the Pacific Motorway into Southport and as such congestion can sometimes occur. In addition, the intersection of Southport–Nerang Road and Edmund Rice Drive carries a significant volume of traffic particularly during peak hours, such as during morning and afternoon school drop-off and pick-up times. With pupils from Aquinas College and Guardian Angels Primary School as well as students from Griffith University using this intersection to access Southport–Nerang Road short bursts of increased traffic at peak times can be expected.

As a general rule, priority is given to traffic on the main road, in this case, Southport–Nerang Road. However, I am advised that the department has a specific signal phasing program to give priority for afternoon school traffic leaving Edmund Rice Drive and travelling onto Southport–Nerang Road.

I am further advised that the department has been liaising with Guardian Angels Primary School and Gold Coast City Council regarding local traffic concerns in this area. For your information, Edmund Rice Drive and Keith Turnbull Drive are controlled by Gold Coast City Council. I am advised that council is investigating possible solutions to the parking and congestion problems currently experienced on these local streets and would be best placed to assist with the petitioners' concerns.

Regarding the request for additional access to Smith Street Motorway from the Griffith University Car Park on the southern side of the motorway, I am advised that the department would not be supportive of such a request due to safety concerns.

Constructing an entry and exit at this location would create serious safety issues for both westbound through traffic on the motorway and westbound traffic exiting the motorway at

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nearby Olsen Avenue and would result in unsafe traffic movements. It would also negatively affect westbound traffic flows along the motorway. In addition, as the car park is situated in such close proximity to the westbound Olsen Avenue off-ramp, access to the motorway at this location would not comply with departmental standards.

I am further advised that additional accesses to the motorway in this vicinity could also actually decrease the safety of residents and road users on Edmund Rice Drive due to some motorists using this road to 'rat run' between the motorway and Southport–Nerang Road.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish at the end.

Craig Wallace MP
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and Marine Infrastructure**