



Hon Craig Wallace MP
Member for Thuringowa



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

Our ref: PP1692-11

Your ref: Petitions

24 JUN 2011

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to a petition number 1692-11 lodged within the Legislative Assembly by Mr Ted Malone MP, Member for Mirani, about the Bruce Highway between Rockhampton and Mackay.

The state government is committed to working with its federal counterparts to improve safety for motorists travelling on the Bruce Highway.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads will plan and implement a comprehensive safety audit of Central Queensland roads, including the Bruce Highway, to better understand the impact of road conditions on driver safety. It is anticipated that the audit will cover the Mackay/Whitsunday, Fitzroy and Central West regions and will examine the network using departmental systems and toolkits.

The audit will identify deficiencies on the state-controlled road network in Central Queensland and will provide recommendations for treatments. The audit will also use prioritisation methodology to identify which areas need the most urgent attention. Issues that will be looked at include, but are not limited to:

- fatigue zones
- locations for installation of rest areas
- road widths
- road shoulders
- signage and high crash areas.

Once network deficiencies have been identified and appropriate treatments determined, these works will be prioritised for construction against other projects on the state-controlled road network.

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At this stage the audit is likely to commence in the 2011-12 financial year. In the meantime, the department is continuing to make safety improvements to the Bruce Highway between Rockhampton and Mackay.

Construction of a new overtaking lane and the extension of an existing lane between Sarina and Mackay is scheduled to commence in mid-2011 at a cost of \$4 million. These projects were identified as part of the Building Australia Program's safety initiative, and will improve safety on this stretch of the Bruce Highway.

In addition to this, the department has also secured a further \$4.3 million for two more overtaking lanes between Sarina and Mackay.

The department is also working with the federal government to address fatigue management on this critical section of the Bruce Highway through the construction of a new heavy vehicle rest area at Waverley Creek with enough parking for 14 B-double vehicles, at a cost of just under \$2.5 million. The existing rest area facilities will also be upgraded with rehabilitation of the road surface, construction of parking areas, upgrading the toilets and installing lighting.

In addition to this, the department will undertake rehabilitation and sealing works on a 26 km section of the Bruce Highway between Granite Creek and Freshwater Creek, as well as upgrading the access to the rest stop area at a cost of approximately \$16 million.

The department has also commenced work on a \$10 million project to upgrade the main street of Sarina. Works include the installation of traffic signals at Railway Square intersection, as well as widening works between Central Street and Plane Creek Bridge, which will improve visibility and promote safer driving conditions along this stretch of the highway. There have been three fatalities in this area during the past decade and every death on our roads is one too many.

Approximately \$34.4 million has been committed for flood restoration works on this section of the Bruce Highway as part of the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).

The department has also commenced widening and strengthening works along an 18 km section of the Bruce Highway between Princhester and Marlborough at a cost of \$5.8 million.

Additionally, the federal government has committed a further \$15 million towards widening and strengthening works at various locations between Rockhampton and St Lawrence, \$5.6 million to provide a northbound overtaking lane near Atkinson Road and a southbound overtaking lane between Raspberry Creek and Oaky Creek. Federal funding is also being provided for the construction of a \$2 million heavy vehicle rest area south of Marlborough.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a horizontal stroke at the bottom.

Craig Wallace MP
**Minister for Main Roads, Fisheries
and Marine Infrastructure**