



Hon Craig Wallace MP
Member for Thuringowa



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

Our ref: Petition 1751-11PP

Your ref: Petitions

1 9 SEP 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 1751-11 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Shane Knuth MP, Member for Dalrymple on 24 August 2011 about the section of the Gillies Range Road from the Lake Eacham Roadhouse at the intersection of Malanda-Lake Barrine Road, to Yungaburra through to Atherton.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads recognises the importance of this road as a vital link between Cairns and the Atherton Tablelands and is committed to maintaining the road in the safest possible condition for road users. Maintenance crews regularly patrol this road to identify any safety hazards and carry out routine maintenance works as required. The department also acts on reports of road damage from members of the public. Repairs are prioritised so that critical safety works on roads under the heaviest traffic are carried out first. Members of the public are encouraged to report traffic hazards, including potholes, by calling the Cairns Traffic Coordination Centre on 13 19 40.

The department is continuing to carry out a range of maintenance works to improve the surface of this section of road increasing driver comfort and improving safety. These works include a recent asphalt overlay at Marks Lane intersection. Further asphalt overlay works are planned in this vicinity after the wet season. Pavement rehabilitation works are expected to be carried out this year from the Gillies Range Road and Kennedy Highway intersection in Atherton along Robert Street towards the Central Business District, weather and resources permitting. An asphalt overlay project to rehabilitate Gillies Range Road through Atherton, locally known as Louise Street, is planned to take place after the upcoming wet season.

I am advised that the department is working to meet the task of reconstructing the Far North's regional road network following damage from wet weather events in 2010 and 2011. This reconstruction effort in Queensland is known as Operation Queenslander.

A \$5.8 million project is well underway to repair and widen a 2.59 km section of the Gillies Range Road between Mountain View Drive and Phillips Avenue, east of Atherton.

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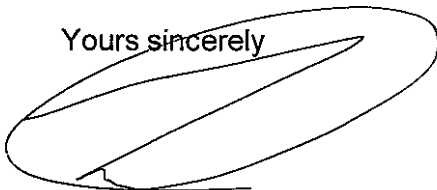
The Tinaroo Falls Dam Road intersection will also be widened and realigned as part of the project.

We are currently finalising funding applications for reconstruction projects planned for delivery in 2011 and 2012 on the state-controlled road network on the Atherton Tablelands. The reconstruction work is funded under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA), a joint federal and state government initiative. I am pleased to advise that the department is currently preparing a submission for NDRRA funding to reconstruct a section of the Gillies Range Road from Barron River Bridge to Marks Lane with the intention of delivering these works this year, weather and resources permitting

In addition, planning is underway for a \$3.65 million project to carry out repairs, strengthening and widening between the intersection of Malanda - Lake Barrine Road and Yungaburra. This project is expected to include widening of the Peeramon Road intersection.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Wallace', enclosed within a hand-drawn oval border.

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