



The Honourable Scott Emerson MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PP1878-12

Your ref: Petitions

14 JUN 2012

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

Level 15 Capital Hill Building
85 George Street Brisbane 4000
GPO Box 2644 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3237 1111
Facsimile +61 7 3224 2493
Email tmr@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Website www.tmr.qld.gov

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to a petition number 1878-12 lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 17 May 2012, about a new bridge at John Muntz Causeway on Tamborine–Oxenford Road.

The John Muntz Causeway at Upper Coomera/Oxenford was temporarily closed after being badly damaged following flooding of the Coomera River on 25 January 2012.

I am advised by the Department of Transport and Main Roads that structural damage to the causeway section over the main channel of the river meant it is not viable for it to be repaired and is to be replaced by a bridge.

The damage incurred is eligible to be assessed for funding under National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA). This will only cover part of the costs of building the bridge and approach works because the NDRRA funding only covers "reinstatement" to pre-existing condition. The state government recognises the importance of fully repairing this important link and is reviewing its road funding priorities to identify funds it can allocate to these bridge and road improvements.

I am further advised by the department that design for a new bridge is already well underway with survey and geotechnical studies complete and a flood study nearing completion.

The new bridge will be about 60 metres long, located immediately downstream and at a similar height to the causeway. Removal of the old causeway embankment in the river channel will provide improved immunity and reduced flooding impacts during future wet weather events.

The Tamborine–Oxenford Road and Oxenford–Coomera Gorge Road (Maudsland Road) intersection will also be realigned and upgraded to a traffic signal controlled, major T-intersection to improve traffic flow. Construction is anticipated to start in 2013.

I appreciate the community's desire for this project to be fast tracked where possible, and am assured that the department is getting on with designing an appropriate replacement bridge that will deliver a long-term solution for the community.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott Emerson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Scott Emerson MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads