



The Honourable Scott Emerson MP  
Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PET 11387

Your ref: Petitions

04 SEP 2013

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition numbers 2105-13 and 2149-13 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by the Honourable Andrew Powell MP, Member for Glass House on 6 August 2013, about upgrading the Bruce Highway to six lanes between the Sunshine Coast and Caboolture to improve network efficiency and road safety.

Consistent with its election commitment, one of the Queensland Government's top priorities has been the development of an engineering-based 10-year Bruce Highway Action Plan (the Plan). Released in October 2012, the Plan identifies the Bruce Highway's most urgent investment needs, including capacity improvements that relieve growing congestion and improve road safety.

The Queensland Government has taken the initiative by committing an additional \$1 billion over 10 years (from 2012-13) for urgent upgrades to the Bruce Highway, of which \$350 million has been provided over the first five years. This funding is subject to a matching extra commitment from the Australian Government, over and above its existing level of investment in this national highway in recent years.

Priorities identified in the 10-year section of the Plan include staged upgrading of the Caloundra Road and Sunshine Motorway interchanges, construction of associated service roads and commencement of six-laning of the highway between these two interchanges. Also identified in the Plan is the upgrading of interchanges between Pine River and Maroochydore Road.

Currently funded works between the Gateway Motorway and Sunshine Coast include:

- improved lighting at the Bruce Highway junction with Johnston Road
- works currently underway at Pumicestone Road interchange
- construction of a new interchange at Roys and Bells Creek Roads, which is scheduled to commence in late 2013
- managed motorway treatments between the Gateway Motorway and Caboolture to better manage traffic flow in this corridor.

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Both major political parties have included 10-year commitments to accelerate upgrading of the construction of the Bruce Highway in the lead-up to the next federal election. These include:

- Federal Labor
  - \$4.1 billion (2012-13 to 2021-22), with funding arrangements and project delivery timeframes yet to be advised for other than the recent federal announcements to construct the Cooroy-Curra Section A project, between Cooroy Southern interchange and Sankeys Road (50:50 federal:state) and the Yeppen Flood Plain south of Rockhampton (80:20 federal:state).
  - Construction of Stage 1 of the Caloundra Road to Sunshine Motorway upgrade is included in this 10-year commitment, as are managed motorway treatments between Gateway Motorway and Caboolture. Stage 1 provides for upgrading the Caloundra Road interchange, partial upgrade of the Sunshine Motorway interchange and partial construction of a western service road in advance of six-laning works.
- Federal Coalition
  - \$6.7 billion (2013-14 to 2022-23), based on an agreed funding split (80:20 federal:state) for future identified projects and indicative timeframes for their delivery.
  - Construction of Stages 1 and 2 of the Caloundra Road to Sunshine Motorway upgrade is planned over the 10-year timeframe. It includes Stage 1 construction (as per scope outlined above) and planning and design for Stage 2 within the next four years, with Stage 2 construction to follow in years 6 to 10.
  - Stage 2 provides for completion of interchange works at the Sunshine Motorway and the western service road, as well as six-laning between Caloundra Road and the Glenview underpass.
  - This commitment also included funding for:
    - planning for interchange upgrades between Pine River and Caloundra within the next four years
    - construction of Stage 1 of the Maroochydore Road interchange and further managed motorway treatments, between the Gateway Motorway and Caboolture, in years 6 to 10.

The Queensland Government will continue to lobby both parties for additional funding to address the urgent upgrades needed on Queensland's number one national highway.

Please be assured that up-to-date engineering standards underpin the Plan and, within available funds, the Department of Transport and Main Roads will continue to deliver road network improvements in the most cost-effective manner to provide quality outcomes and value-for-money for Queensland.

The important role the Sunshine Coast plays as a tourist destination for the betterment of the Queensland tourism industry is acknowledged. Clearly, the significant contribution the Bruce Highway makes to tourism ventures along Queensland's eastern seaboard cannot be underestimated.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Emerson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Scott Emerson MP  
**Minister for Transport and Main Roads**