



The Honourable Scott Emerson MP  
Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PET 11970

Your ref: 10.4 Petitions

20 MAR 2014

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to a petition number 2226-14 lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 4 March 2014 about permits for transporting sugar through Mount Molloy and Julatten.

The Mossman-Mount Molloy Road has been an approved route for 23 metre B-double trucks hauling sugar products for many years. The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is satisfied that the route is suitable for the haulage operation proposed by Mackay Sugar. TMR does not have legislative ability to restrict operating hours.

In mid-2011, in consultation with road safety experts ARRB Group Ltd, TMR carried out a swept path assessment of Rex Range using heavy vehicles fitted with multiple video cameras. The testing confirmed that correctly configured B-doubles can operate safely along this route, however, if there is any evidence that Mackay Sugar's haulage operation is impacting road safety on the state-controlled road network, TMR will take immediate steps to address the issues.

Mackay Sugar has facilitated two community workshops (19 November 2013 and 6 March 2014) in Mareeba to enable the collaborative exploration of issues associated with the haulage. This included a request to restrict operating hours. Key stakeholders who have attended the workshop/s include:

- Mackay Sugar
- TMR
- Queensland Police Service
- Qube (Mackay Sugar's haulage operator)
- Community representatives, including the local school Principal and school bus operator.

On the basis of feedback from the 6 March 2014 workshop, Mackay Sugar is proceeding to consultation with groups and individuals rather than holding a public meeting to discuss its haulage plans. TMR encourages key stakeholders to work with Mackay Sugar towards positive outcomes for all parties.

Yours sincerely

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

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