



Deputy Premier
Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
and Minister for Trade and Investment

Our ref: MC16/5393

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22 DEC 2016

ABN 90 856 020 239

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Corner Alice and George Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 14 December 2016 about petition 2674-16 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 1 December 2016 about Catherine Street at the Tolga State Primary School (the school).

I commend the petitioners for acting on their concerns about the safety of the children who attend the school.

I can confirm that Catherine Street is a local government controlled road and as such the request that it be made a one-way thoroughfare is a matter for the Tablelands Regional Council (the council) in consultation with the school community. The Department of Transport and Main Roads may need to be consulted if works could impact the Kennedy Highway.

In Queensland, local governments are autonomous bodies charged with taking independent action on a wide range of matters necessary for ensuring the good rule and governance of their areas. While the petitioner's concerns are noted, I have limited powers under the *Local Government Act 2009* to direct any local government in matters such as this. Nevertheless, an officer of the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DILGP) contacted the council to determine what assistance could be given.

The council subsequently advised DILGP that the school has recently sought its advice in relation to the upgrade of car parking and access to the school's frontages, with an emphasis on the Catherine Street frontage. The council advises that a site meeting held on 17 August 2016 was attended by representatives of the school, the council and the Queensland Police Service to address perceived safety issues with a decision being taken to have the council's Design Office prepare concept plans around measures which might be put in place to address concerns. The council advises that these concept plans have since been prepared for consultation and that the Department of Education and Training has recommended the formation of a Safe School Transport (SafeST) Committee as a vehicle for this consultation.

The council has further advised DILGP that the information it has prepared has been shared with the school's Principal and the Parents and Citizens Association (P&C) with a presentation being made at the P&C meeting held on 21 November 2016. The council understands that the SafeST committee will be formed in the new year and that it will have membership on the committee.

If you require further information, I encourage you to contact Ms Jo Stephenson, Regional Director, Northern Region in DILGP on 4758 3419 or by email at jo.stephenson@dilgp.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Miles', is positioned above the typed name.

DR STEVEN MILES MP
Acting Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government
and Planning and Minister for Trade and Investment