



Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PET33425

Your ref: A481122

1 8 SEP 2019

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition 3184-19 and 3120-19, lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 20 August 2019 about a request to fast-track upgrades and improve flood immunity for bridges at Spear Creek, Rifle Creek, McLeod River and Little Annan in Far North Queensland.

The Palaszczuk Government recognises the unique wet season challenges faced by communities in Far North Queensland and the impacts this creates for economic opportunities, freight efficiency, road safety and access to essential services.

I recently visited Lockhart River with the Member for Cook and also visited Croydon and Georgetown where I saw first hand the challenges faced by regional and remote communities in the Far North.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to the safety of all road users, including improving flooding immunity of key access routes across Queensland. The Mulligan Highway is recognised as an important route, being the only sealed route providing access to Cooktown and the Cape York communities, and we are committed to delivering key upgrades on this route.

Works were completed in June 2019 to rehabilitate and strengthen bridges along the Mulligan Highway at Spring Creek, Kelly St George River, Spear Creek south of Lakeland and Palmer River Bridge.

The Palaszczuk Government will continue to seek opportunities to progressively upgrade the flood immunity of key crossings of the Mulligan Highway, including the Little Annan River crossing, on a priority basis as funding becomes available.

I am pleased to advise that the *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2019–20 to 2022–23* (QTRIP) has announced \$704,000 for a planning project to investigate and determine the required upgrades to bridges at Rifle Creek, Spear Creek and McLeod River. QTRIP has also allocated \$12 million to upgrade the Rifle Creek bridge and surrounding area, with construction estimated to begin after 2021.

In the recent State Budget, we also committed our share of funding to continue the successful Cape York Region Package which has delivered significant benefits to communities in the Cape through sealing of the Peninsula Developmental Road and by creating jobs and training opportunities for local residents, including indigenous communities.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Bailey', with a long, sweeping underline that extends downwards and to the right.

MARK BAILEY MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads