

Our ref MC6359

Your ref 315-04

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
Cnr Alice and George Streets  
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

**Re: Petition No. 525 - request for installation of noise barriers  
along the Gateway Arterial**

I refer to the petition lodged by Mr Phil Reeves MP, Member for Mansfield, in Parliament on 13 May 2004 in relation to a request for installation of noise barriers along the Gateway Arterial. The head petitioner was Mr H Sharrock.

The Department of Main Roads has a standard process for consideration of requests for road traffic noise reduction measures. This process is documented in the Main Roads 'Road Traffic Noise Management: Code of Practice'. The establishment of standard criteria in the code of practice ensures procedural fairness and uniformity in the decision-making process.

In the case of Vanderbilt Street, Eight Mile Plains, Main Roads officers have previously conducted noise measurements at two locations in nearby Blue Grass Crescent. Exposure to traffic noise levels at Blue Grass Crescent is expected to be very similar to that experienced at Vanderbilt Street. Measurements undertaken in 2001 indicated that noise levels were well below the Main Roads criteria of 68 decibels for consideration of noise barriers on existing roads. The highest recorded measurement at Blue Grass Crescent was 65 decibels.

Predicted future noise levels for this area were calculated using forecasts of traffic growth. For a ten year horizon and projected traffic growth of 3.5% per annum, the analysis indicated that noise levels were not expected to exceed Main Roads criteria before 2011. Given the results of these investigations, it is not proposed to construct noise barriers at this location at present.

Main Roads provides funding for the construction of noise barriers in various ways. Many barriers are constructed when roads are upgraded. However, specific funding is also made available for the construction of barriers adjacent to existing state-controlled roads. Main Roads has spent over \$1m in the past two financial years on specific noise barrier projects in the Metropolitan District.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

**PAUL LUCAS MP**  
**Minister for Transport and Main Roads**