



Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PET 36878

Your ref: A559422

17 June 2020

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petitions 3272-20 and 3339-20 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr James Lister MP, Member for Southern Downs on 19 May 2020 about reducing the speed limit on the New England Highway through Ballandean.

I can advise the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) conducted a speed review of the New England Highway at Ballandean in 2017, which did not recommend a change in the speed limit. However, in November 2019, the *Queensland Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (Part 4 Speed Controls)* was re-issued and included an updated eight-stage procedure for carrying out speed limit reviews. As a result, TMR has determined to undertake a review of the existing 80km/h speed zones and school zones between Applethorpe and Ballandean which will be completed in the coming weeks.

The objective of a speed limit review process is to determine and implement a speed limit that appropriately balances the road environment, the function of the road and the safety of all road users. The results from this review and any subsequent recommendations will then be taken to the local Speed Management Advisory Committee for consideration and endorsement. In this case, the committee consists of representatives from TMR, the Queensland Police Service and Southern Downs Regional Council.

If any changes are endorsed by the committee, such as changes to the posted speed limits, the location of speed zones or signage, they will be implemented early next financial year.

To improve safety on the New England Highway south of Warwick, the Palaszczuk Government funded an \$11.2 million project in 2018 to widen sections of the highway between Dalveen and Glen Aplin including the construction of an additional southbound overtaking lane and intersection improvements. In 2019, construction of the \$9.1 million Stanthorpe Roundabout at the southern access to Stanthorpe Connection Road was also completed, significantly improving safety at this intersection. Additionally, as listed in the *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2019–20 to 2022–23*, TMR will commence construction in late 2020 of a \$19.5 million project between Stanthorpe and Ballandean to improve safety along this section of the highway by implementing wide centre line treatments, intersection improvements, hazard clearing, installing safety barriers and signage improvements.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Bailey'.

MARK BAILEY MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads