

Our ref MC8617

Your ref 340-04

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Re: Petition No. 966 – Request for installation of noise barriers along the Gateway Arterial at Northwind Estate

I refer to the petition lodged in Parliament on 17 August 2004 by Ms Bonny Barry MP, Member for Aspley, in relation to a request for the installation of noise barriers along the Gateway Arterial in the Northwind Estate area.

The Department of Main Roads complies with the Road Traffic Noise Management: Code of Practice for the management of road traffic noise. The code of practice specifies a noise level and other criteria that must be satisfied for Main Roads to consider the installation of noise barriers.

For existing roads this noise level is 68 decibels. This is based on what is known as the L₁₀ (18 hour) noise level. This is the noise level exceeded for six minutes of each hour during the monitoring period. The hourly measurements are averaged for the 18 hour monitoring period between 6:00am and midnight on any normal working day.

Main Roads completed a road traffic noise assessment for the Gateway Arterial between Bracken Street and Gympie Arterial Road in 2003. The assessment identified areas where noise levels meet Main Roads criteria for consideration of the construction of noise barriers or where they are expected to meet the required level within the next 10 years. The report also provided recommendations for noise amelioration strategies.

The study indicated that three residences along Kyeema Crescent are currently experiencing a noise level that is marginally above the 68 decibel level where Main Roads would consider noise amelioration measures. The report indicates that either replacing the current road surface with a new quieter road surface or constructing a 2.2m sound barrier would drop the noise levels at these dwellings to below the threshold level of 68 decibels for the next 10-year traffic planning horizon, based on current traffic growth estimates.

Funding for road maintenance resurfacings or the construction of noise barriers along the Gateway Arterial, which is part of the National Network, is the responsibility of the federal government. Despite several requests to the federal government, specific funding for the construction of noise barriers has not been allocated. Unfortunately, federal funding for resurfacing this section of the Gateway is also not available at present.

However, depending on Main Roads ability to obtain funding, its preference would be to resurface the road immediately adjacent to Kyeema Crescent. Due to the uncertainty of federal funding I am currently unable to provide you with an indication of the timing of this work.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

PAUL LUCAS MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads