



Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PET40115
Your ref: A657375

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19 March 2021

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition 3453-21 lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 23 February 2021 about traffic congestion on Nicklin Way, Sunshine Coast.

The Palaszczuk Government has allocated \$7 million towards the \$18.2 million Nicklin Way/Third Avenue Extension project which will provide more direct access to Caloundra for motorists approaching from Mooloolaba. This extension will make it easier for motorists, bike riders and pedestrians to travel into Caloundra by reducing traffic congestion on Caloundra Road and reducing delays at the Caloundra Road/Nicklin Way roundabout.

This vital congestion-busting project is not yet fully funded. In addition to the Palaszczuk Government's commitment, the Sunshine Coast Council (SCC) has committed its fair share of \$4.2 million. The Australian Government was requested to fund the remaining \$7 million to get this project underway, but has so far failed, refused or neglected to allocate its share of funding.

This project will connect to Oval Avenue, which is part of SCC road network and which SCC is planning to duplicate, to create a new entrance into Caloundra.

My department is working with SCC to coordinate the scope and delivery of the project to ensure the project will be constructed in the most cost-effective manner and disruption to the community is minimised during construction. The project scope and timing will be finalised when the Australian Government funding has been confirmed and wider community engagement is complete.

The Australian Government's funding is now urgently awaited to allow Sunshine Coast residents to benefit from the reduced congestion this project will deliver.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

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

MARK BAILEY MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads