



Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PET42645
Your ref: A756191

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30 September 2021

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition 3506-21 lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 1 September 2021 about passing legislation to require traffic control companies to remove/cover speed restriction signs when no roadworks are actually taking place.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) takes the safety of road workers and road users very seriously. Noncompliance with lawful instructions at roadwork sites increases the risk, not only to road workers, but to road users as well. To reduce this risk, TMR has been working actively over a number of years with industry representatives, local government and other road authorities to improve the credibility of signage at roadwork sites, in order to achieve better voluntary speed compliance, and to facilitate speed enforcement by the Queensland Police Service.

Traffic management compliance audits of projects on state-controlled roads in South East Queensland indicate that initiatives to improve road worker safety, and driver speed compliance (that were commenced in 2013), have been quite effective given the number of non-conformances identified in compliance audits have significantly reduced.

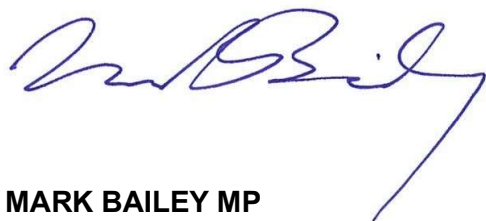
TMR has obligations in its contracts with suppliers for surveillance of traffic management signage, record keeping and the option for fees to be levied for non-compliant signs. TMR's contractual specifications only apply to projects on state-controlled roads, which is approximately 20 per cent of the state-road network (with the other 80 per cent being under local government control).

TMR has been working with other state and territory road authorities and stakeholders engaged in traffic management and road construction for the development of national guidelines for the management of traffic at roadwork sites. These national documents were published in December 2019 and are industry best practice.

While the South Australian Government has introduced legislation to ensure that signs at roadwork sites are credible—and in accordance with the appropriate traffic guidance scheme—TMR undertakes compliance audits of its contracts, and is able to levy reinspection fees to contractors where signs are found not to be in accordance with appropriate traffic guidance schemes. These reinspection fees work as an incentive for contractors to ensure that signs are correctly installed and speed limits at roadwork sites are appropriate for the site.

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