



Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PET 42550
Your ref: A756287

30 September 2021

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

1 William Street Brisbane 4000
GPO Box 2644 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7300
Email transportandmainroads@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Website www.tmr.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition 3570-21, lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr James McDonald MP, Member for Lockyer on 31 August 2021 about installing toilets at the newly constructed Gatton Heavy Vehicle Decoupling Facility.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) built the Gatton Heavy Vehicle Decoupling Facility to address the industry's need to safely reconfigure truck and trailer combinations into compliant configurations, east of Toowoomba. Prior to its construction, the only decoupling facility between Toowoomba and Brisbane was located at Charlton, at the top of the range. This location required heavy vehicles to make multiple trips on the Toowoomba Bypass to complete their freight task. A temporary facility was commissioned at the time the bypass opened to allow industry to complete freight tasks without having to pay additional tolls.

There were a number of safety related constraints considered before the location for the new facility was determined. The chosen site was found to be the most appropriate, due to its proximity to an interchange, making access and egress to and from the Warrego Highway safe for all travellers.

As part of the consultation process undertaken during planning for the new facility, TMR engaged the University of Queensland (UQ) about its use of nearby land. These negotiations led to the establishment of significant biosecurity restrictions to protect UQ's ongoing agricultural research. A biosecurity site management plan was developed collaboratively with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Lockyer Valley Regional Council, Biosecurity Queensland and UQ that excludes bathroom facilities.

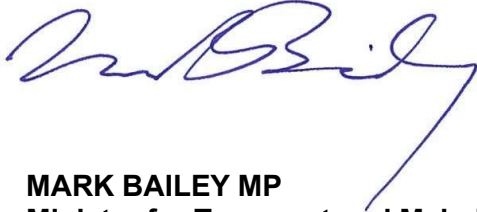
There are adequate facilities on this stretch of the Warrego Highway to accommodate the needs of heavy vehicle operators, without compromising the biosecurity of UQ. Eastbound operators can use the College View BP service station and the Charlton Heavy Vehicle Decoupling Facility. Westbound operators can use the Gatton Rest Area.

The Gatton Heavy Vehicle Decoupling Facility is not a rest area. The site is governed by a biosecurity site management plan and there are nearby toilet facilities.

Further, it is relevant to note that TMR does not install toilets at stand-alone decoupling facilities as they can be confused for rest areas. It is both unsafe and disruptive to the heavy vehicle industry if the general public misuse decoupling facilities as rest areas. Another example is the heavy vehicle decoupling facility on the Flinders Highway in Townsville, which opened in 2016.

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