

Our ref: MC8717

Your ref: 361-04

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Re: Petition to the Legislative Assembly

Upgrading the Maidenwell – Bunya Mountains Road

I refer to the petition lodged by Mrs Dorothy Pratt MP, Member for Nanango, on 2 September 2004, with the Legislative Assembly, about upgrading the Maidenwell – Bunya Mountains Road.

The Department of Main Roads has to prioritise works based on benefits to communities across Queensland. As a result, Main Roads highest priority is to upgrade roads that are key links between communities and the most heavily used roads throughout the state.

As an example of what Main Roads is doing on key links in the area, work has recently finished on an \$800,000 project to provide an overtaking lane on the D'Aguilar Highway east of Blackbutt. Further funding will be provided this financial year for the rehabilitation of another section of the D'Aguilar Highway between Blackbutt and Yarraman.

In relation to the Maidenwell – Bunya Mountains Road, there are three other roads in the area, including two that are fully sealed, that link to the Bunya Mountains. Therefore, there are no plans to complete the seal on the Bunya Mountains – Maidenwell Road in the next five years. However, Main Roads will ensure the road is maintained in a safe condition. This means grading the unsealed sections and resealing the existing bitumen sealed sections periodically.

However, the Maidenwell – Bunya Mountains Road is one of the roads in the network of Local Roads of Regional Significance (LRRS) that will be managed by the Wide Bay/Burnett Regional Road Group from mid-2005. That group may seek to review the priority for works on this road.

If you need any more information about this matter please contact Mr Doug Head, Main Roads Acting District Director (Toowoomba), on 4639 0720.

Yours sincerely

PAUL LUCAS MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads