



Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PET3710-22
Your ref: A960711

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11 November 2022

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition 3710-22, lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 12 October 2022 about relaxation of traffic signal rules at suitable intersections.

The Transport Operations (Road Use Management-Road Rules) Regulation 2009 contains the road rules applicable to Queensland, that are substantially uniform with road rules across all jurisdictions of Australia. The Regulation includes, but is not limited to, rules for drivers in relation to obeying traffic lights and traffic arrows.

Traffic signals allow road users to safely navigate through an intersection, give priority to a particular direction/mode of travel at different times of the day and, through coordination, allow large volumes of traffic to pass through the network with minimal delay.

There are approximately 1700 signalised intersections in Queensland under the central control of a fully integrated Intelligent Transport System known as STREAMS. The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) uses STREAMS to coordinate traffic signals, record faults, record data for performance monitoring, manage traffic incidents and special events, provide traveller information and provide parking guidance.

All traffic signals in Queensland can operate in a traffic responsive mode (they are vehicle actuated) to reduce delay as far as possible. When there is very little traffic on parts of the road network, the signals will usually 'rest' in the main road phase, so that traffic on the main road will not be delayed if there is no traffic on the side street.

When traffic on the side street is detected (by loops of wire cut into the road surface) the main road signals will go red almost immediately if there is no traffic on the main road. The side road signals generally go green six or seven seconds later. Where particular signals are causing undue delay, it may be due to faulty detectors. Traffic signal faults can be reported by phoning the Traffic Signals Fault Line on 13 19 40.

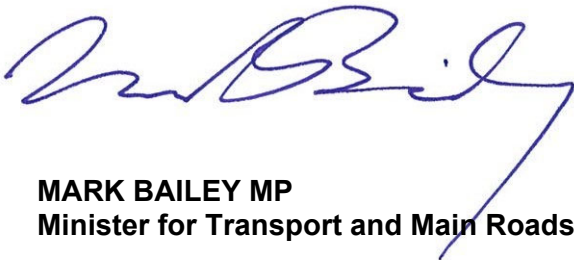
Traffic signals play an integral role in communicating the safety of entering an intersection to drivers. Red traffic signals communicate to a driver that it is unsafe to enter an intersection and, in doing so, provide a safer road system for all road users. In a similar way, green traffic signals communicate to a driver that it is safe to enter an intersection, which is free of other road users.

Removing traffic signals, and instead relying on driver judgement, takes away protection for road users and reduces the level of safety in the road environment. Without the use of traffic signals, a moment of impatience or poor judgement from a driver could result in serious consequences to themselves and others.

Road safety is one of the Palaszczuk Government's highest priorities, and while TMR strives to ensure that any delays caused by signals is minimal, it considers this to be acceptable to ensure the safety of all road users.

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 to the right.

MARK BAILEY MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads