



Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PET 46302
Your ref: A925571

14 September 2022

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petitions 3769-22 and 3791-22, lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Anthony Perrett MP, Member for Gympie on 16 August 2022 about the proposed closure of Gympie Connection Road.

Construction of a new Gympie Interchange will be commencing soon as part of the \$1 billion Bruce Highway Upgrade – Cooroy to Curra, Section D project. Construction of the interchange will deliver an all movements solution at Gympie Connection Road to cater for commuters travelling to Gympie or the Cooloola Coast from the new highway. The work will require significant controls to manage traffic on Gympie Connection Road with some impacts to residents and road users.

Initial plans had the work being undertaken under traffic control for 18 months, however, the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) investigated opportunities to lessen the impact on commuters and the community, and considered closing Gympie Connection Road completely for six months (with local access maintained only).

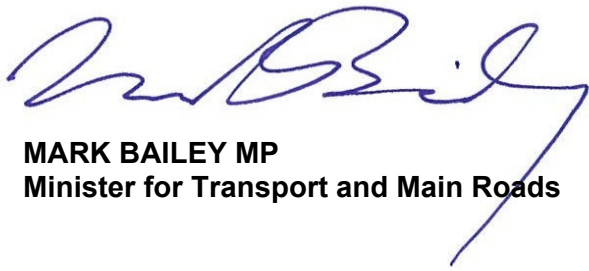
TMR's Cooroy to Curra project team undertook extensive consultation with Gympie Regional Council to manage the effects of the controls on the local network, and in early-July 2022, targeted engagement with residents and businesses impacted by the project. After TMR had concluded the investigation into the traffic management for Gympie Connection Road—taking council and community feedback into consideration—it was determined that the road would not be completely closed for the six-month period and the work would be undertaken over 18 months of traffic control, with intermittent short closures as required. Key stakeholders including businesses and residents impacted by traffic management on Gympie Connection Road have been notified of these changes.

The Gympie interchange is a key feature of the \$1 billion Section D project that will see travel times reduced along the Bruce Highway, getting commuters home safer and sooner. This project will save lives, stimulate the economy with an expected average of 576 direct jobs during construction and provide for future growth and development.

The Palaszczuk Government is delivering its seventh record transport and roads infrastructure program in a row, as detailed in the *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2022–23 to 2025–26*, which outlines \$29.7 billion in investment over the next four years and is estimated to support an average of 25,200 direct jobs over the life of the program. Of this, \$2.65 billion is committed across TMR's Southern Queensland Region, estimated to support an average of 2670 direct jobs over the life of the program.

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