



Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PET47544

Your ref: A991671

3 January 2023

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition 3829-22, lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 29 November 2022 about provisioning of wildlife crossings as part of future works on Steve Irwin Way.

Environmental management is an important part of the Department of Transport and Main Roads' (TMR) approach to planning, design, and construction of road infrastructure.

Duplication of Steve Irwin Way between Mooloolah Connection Road and Caloundra Road/ Bruce Highway was completed in September 2010 and, at that time, a preliminary design was prepared to extend the duplication of Steve Irwin Way south to Landsborough. However, funding was not secured to deliver the duplication to Landsborough.

TMR has many examples of installing wildlife protection infrastructure, including two existing rope bridges crossing Steve Irwin Way. One example includes approaching the Caloundra Road interchange, which also includes wildlife exclusion fencing, and another is near the Meridan Hill Section of the Mooloolah River National Park. TMR has also recently installed kangaroo warning signs on Steve Irwin Way as part of the Steve Irwin Way safety improvement works – Beerwah to Landsborough project, which was completed in late 2022.

TMR will continue to monitor growth on Steve Irwin Way, and planning for upgrades on Steve Irwin Way will be considered in future program reviews against competing priorities across the state.

If future works are considered, TMR will complete an environmental assessment to understand the potential risks to fauna corridors, fauna habitat and the potential for roadkill to inform the project design where possible. TMR's Fauna Sensitive Road Design Manual is used to inform the design, construction and maintenance of roads that better accommodate the needs of fauna by reducing habitat, or population fragmentation and the impact of road traffic. Any previously prepared plans and designs would be reassessed to reflect current conditions and environmental requirements.

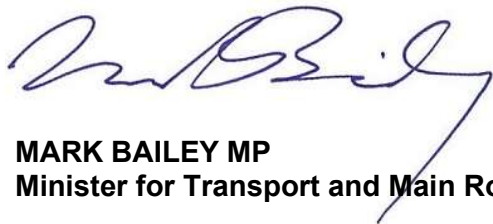
When considering the suitability of fauna friendly infrastructure as a possible mitigation measure, TMR considers a number of issues, including:

- the design needs of the target species
- existing landscape connectivity
- current and future land uses adjacent to the project
- physical design constraints such as topography, geometry, accessibility and drainage
- road safety and funding availability for both construction and an ongoing maintenance commitment
- the suitability of alternative mitigation measures such as signage, habitat restoration and reduced speed limits.

TMR engages with key stakeholders to understand where there are particular high risk locations for animal-vehicle collisions along the existing road network that need to be managed.

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