



Minister for Transport and Main Roads
Minister for Digital Services

Our ref: PET 51692
Your ref: A1185242

13 December 2023

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition 3931-23, lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Ms Ann Leahy MP, Member for Warrego on 14 November 2023 about widening the Mitchell – St George Road.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) confirms the Mitchell – St George Road is a Type 1 road train route. The section of the road between zero kilometres to 56.69 kilometres, within the Maranoa Regional Council (MRC) area, has an annual average daily traffic count of 122 vehicles.

I can confirm that under Routine Maintenance Performance Contracts, council has been maintaining the Mitchell – St George Road. In the 2022–2023 financial year, funding of \$282,317 was spent on the road, and in the 2023–2024 financial year to date, \$645,115 has been spent. This includes the recently completed shoulder grading works on the section of road between 14 kilometres to 34 kilometres, which has corrected any 'elevated shoulders'. The gravel material used in these works is of a higher grade than the locally sourced material that was previously utilised, providing a safer surface in wet weather.

TMR is also undertaking planning for pavement widening and strengthening of the Mitchell – St George Road section of road between 9.6 kilometres and 17 kilometres, south of Mitchell. As part of this planning, TMR will take into consideration the progressive targeted widening of the road to eight metres.

In relation to the request for the installation of safety signs at the Fourteen Mile Creek culvert, I have asked TMR to investigate and install signage as required. The Womalilla Bridge has been noted by TMR for replacement, along with three other timber bridges, however there is currently no funding available for replacements.

The Queensland Government provides funding to local governments through the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS) which is administered by the local Regional Roads and Transport Group (RRTG). MRC is a member of the South West RRTG, which receives an annual TIDS allocation for priority projects across the South West district. I am not aware of council having put forward Mitchell – St George Road as a priority project to receive any TIDS funding to date.

The Palaszczuk Government is delivering its eighth record transport and roads infrastructure program in a row, as detailed in the *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2023–24 to 2026–27*, which outlines \$32.1 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, \$305 million is committed across TMR's South West District, estimated to support an average of 340 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 tail extending downwards and to the right.

MARK BAILEY MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads
Minister for Digital Services