



Hon. Paul Lucas MP



Queensland
Government

5/9/05
LAID UPON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE
THE CLERK OF THE PARLIAMENT

Minister for
Transport and Main Roads

Our ref MC 14255

- 1 SEP 2005

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



Dear Mr Laurie *Neil*

**Re: Petition lodged with the Queensland Legislative Assembly No. 478-05
Coomabah State School**

I refer to the petition lodged by Mrs Peta-Kaye Croft MP, Member for Broadwater on 26 May 2005, with the Legislative Assembly about crossing supervisors at Coombabah State School. The principal petitioner was Mr Christopher Whitecross. I apologise for the delay in responding while the road works were being completed and consultation occurred with the school.

The upgrading of Oxley Drive in front of the Coombabah State School required the construction of a new signalised pedestrian crossing. This replaced the previous signalised pedestrian crossing at this location that covered two traffic lanes. That crossing had been in place for many years. I am advised that a school crossing supervisor did not supervise the previous signalised crossing.

Following representations by the Member for Broadwater, Peta-Kaye Croft, a school crossing supervisor was temporarily employed to help students at the signalised pedestrian crossing during the extensive road construction works and because of the changed traffic conditions. The school crossing supervisor remained at the signalised crossing from early April until the beginning of August, when the road works were completed.

Ms Croft and departmental staff have actively worked with the school community since January 2005 to alleviate safety concerns about the upgrading of Oxley Drive to four lanes and the construction of the new signalised pedestrian crossing.

In that time, the following activities have occurred:

- Appointment of a temporary school crossing supervisor to supervise children at the signalised crossings until the road works were fully completed;
- QT staff helped educate the children about how to use the signalised crossings between April and July;
- DMR provided upgraded pedestrian activated signals that incorporate larger, brighter lights for visibility to motorists;
- DMR maintained the 40km/h school zone on Oxley Drive, which would normally have been removed as part of the widening process;
- DMR installed upgraded 40km/h school zone signs which include a fluorescent orange border around the signs for added visibility; and
- DMR installed stickers below the signalised crossing buttons advising operators how to use the lights.

I am advised that DMR is soon to install a threshold treatment at the northern and southern approaches to the school zone on Oxley Drive. The threshold treatment includes a colour block area with the words "school zone" written on the road.

I am also pleased to advise that, following further representations by Ms Croft, QT staff met with the Principal and P&C Association representatives, and the following additional measures will be pursued:

- QT will ask DMR to install an additional school zone sign on the northern approach to the crossing, just south of Columbus Drive, to reinforce the school zone and 40km/h speed limit;
- QT will approach the Queensland Police Service to periodically enforce vehicle speeds during school zone times;
- The school principal will approach the Gold Coast City Council for the issue of a Speed Awareness Device to highlight individual vehicle speeds to drivers;
- QT will seek to secure and provide an educational resource to the school for use in educating children how to use traffic lights;
- QT will paint toe lines on the approaches to the crossing behind which children will stand until the lights change; and
- QT will provide A-frame signs which will advise children to remain behind the toe lines until the lights change.

QT will also approach the Principal of Coombabah State School and the P&C Association to see if they would like to re-establish a Safe School Travel (SafeST) committee at the school. Many schools throughout Queensland have established SafeST committees to identify and consider all road safety issues at their particular school and surrounding road environment.

QT staff can assist these committees with their work and guide them in developing local solutions to problems or, if appropriate, how to access Local or State Government programs.

I am advised that a school crossing supervisor remains in place on the crossing at Brady Drive, which does not have traffic lights. However, the provision of school crossing supervisors at signalised crossings is not considered to be the optimal use of funding available under the School Crossing Supervisor Scheme. Instead, funding for school crossing supervisors is directed to high risk sites that do not have any traffic or pedestrian management devices.

I thank the petitioners for their interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Lucas', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

PAUL LUCAS MP

Minister for Transport and Main Roads