



Hon. Paul Lucas MP



Queensland  
Government

Our ref: MC21513

Your ref: 635-06

Minister for  
Transport and Main Roads

3 MAY 2006

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
Cnr Alice and George Streets  
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

**Re: Petition No 635-06: Signage on the Bruce Highway**

I refer to the petition lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Peter Wellington MP, Member for Nicklin, on 29 March 2006 about the installation of signage on the Bruce Highway instructing heavy vehicles to refrain from using exhaust brakes.

The Department of Main Roads does acknowledge that the issue of noise made by trucks is a community concern. This is common in urban areas, but unfortunately, where houses are located near a major arterial road, some noise from heavy vehicles is inevitable. Auxiliary braking systems, such as compression brakes, are a key safety design feature because they significantly reduce brake wear and can prevent heat-induced brake failure.

Trials of the "Limit Compression Braking" signs in Queensland and New South Wales have shown no appreciable improvement in limiting brake noise in the immediate vicinity of the signs.

Where compression braking poses amenity problems, Main Roads policy does, however, allow for the installation of signs:

- on freight routes entering urban areas where the speed limit exceeds 80km/h
- in urban environments where the speed does not exceed 80km/h or where steep grades are likely to require use of compression brakes.

The Bruce Highway is a major traffic carrying route and is not an urban area, therefore, does not meet the criteria for installation of a sign. Additionally, heavy vehicles may be required to use their compression brakes to safely exit the highway onto Nambour Connection Road.

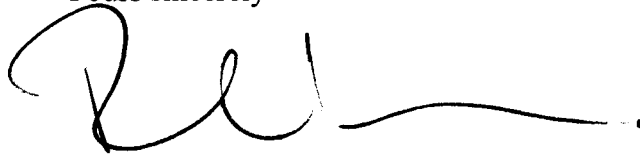
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The Beattie Government is continuing its work with other jurisdictions to identify a national solution to the issue of heavy vehicle noise. Queensland is awaiting the outcome of a National Transport Commission (NTC) review into heavy vehicle engine brake noise. The aim of the review is to assess the feasibility of a regulatory solution to engine brake noise. As part of this project, the NTC has investigated a number ways to control engine brake noise without introducing unfair restrictions on industry or creating a safety issue.

The NTC is in the process of finalising the engine brake noise proposal and a Regulatory Impact Statement, which will be released for comment from all stakeholders including industry and the general public.

The Queensland Government is also closely following a trial by Transport South Australia of a fixed noise camera system that can detect and record engine brake noise, as well as identifying number plates using video images. The NTC and Transport South Australia have been involved in the testing and analysis of this technology and I have requested advice on the outcomes of this trial.

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**