



Hon. Paul Lucas MP



Queensland
Government

Our ref: MC21924

Minister for
Transport and Main Roads

29 JUN 2006

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Re: Petition no. 642-06 - Crossing at Davidson Road, Tully

I refer to the petition lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Barry Barnes, on 20 April 2006, requesting warning lights be installed at the rail crossing at Davidson Road, Tully. This issue was also raised with my office by Mr Marc Rowell MP, Member for Hinchinbrook, in a letter dated 1 March 2006. I apologise for the delay in responding.

The Queensland Government is committed to improving safety at open level crossings (OLC) and has committed \$18.5m for safety improvements at OLCs through the Open Level Crossing Protection Strategy. A risk score model (ALCAM) was developed for the implementation of this strategy and determines the risks at the 1500 level crossings covered by the strategy. This has enabled the consistent assessment of safety at each level crossing and determines appropriate mitigation measures, as well as the most cost effective means to control the risk. The ALCAM model was endorsed by several Government and non-Government bodies and has since been adopted throughout Australia.

Queensland Rail (QR), the Department of Main Roads and Cardwell Shire Council have been active participants in the risk assessment process as part of the local OLC committee for rail crossings in Cardwell Shire. A risk assessment of the OLC at Davidson Road, Euramo, carried out in 2002, indicated the crossing required improvements to road markings and signage. These works were completed in July 2005. The risk assessment did not identify a need for flashing lights to be installed at this location.

In response to Mr Rowell's enquiry, QR officers reviewed the risk assessment of the Davidson Road crossing specifically looking at safety of heavy vehicles using the crossing. I am advised that findings are consistent with the original assessment.

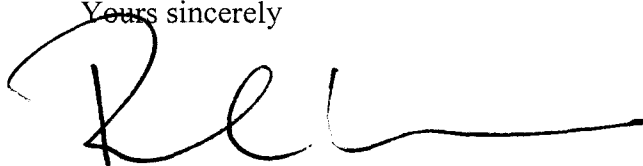
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On 23 March 2006 I announced the upgrade of the 15km section of the Bruce Highway between Corduroy Creek and Tully High School. Under this project the Bruce Highway near Davidson Road, Euramo, which is currently about 50m from the railway line, will be realigned to about 150m from the rail line. This will improve safety at the crossing by increasing the length available for queuing and visibility to drivers approaching from the Bruce Highway. Detailed design work is currently underway and construction is scheduled to begin in mid 2007 with completion expected in late 2009.

In consideration of the issues raised in the petition and by Mr Rowell, I have instructed QR to raise the petition with the local OLC committee and to liaise with the Bruce Highway project team to ensure safety at the Davidson Road rail crossing is not adversely affected by the proposed Bruce Highway realignment.

I trust this information is of assistance.

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