



31 AUG 2006

Department of **Main Roads**

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to a petition lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 10 August 2006 by Mr Jason O'Brien MP, Member for Cook, about the request for the speed limit at the intersection of Port Douglas Road and the Captain Cook Highway to be reduced to 60km/h and for the provision of a roundabout at the intersection. As the government has assumed a caretaker role during the election period, by convention, the Minister has asked that I respond to you on his behalf.

The Department of Main Roads will be constructing a dedicated left-turn lane into Port Douglas Road later this year. This upgrading work will ensure that motorists entering the Captain Cook Highway from Port Douglas Road can clearly see and give way to through traffic on the highway, addressing a factor identified as a cause of previous accidents at the intersection. A 'Give Way' sign will be installed at the end of the left-turn deceleration lane to eliminate confusion at the junction with Port Douglas Road. The works are expected to be completed by Christmas 2006.

Safety and other needs are carefully considered when scheduling road and intersection upgrading works throughout the state. The intersection in its upgraded form is expected to safely and adequately cater for current and future traffic demand for many years. Following its completion, Main Roads will monitor the intersection to ensure that this solution provides a safe outcome. Depending on future traffic demand, further intersection upgrading work may be required in the longer term, including the possibility of a roundabout.

The current project is being funded under the state government's Safer Roads Sooner program. This program aims to provide funding for relatively low-cost projects, which will have a high return on investment in terms of improved road safety. Some \$280 000 has been provided for this project.

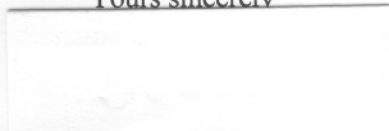


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Speed limits are set using national guidelines so that consistent speed limits are used in similar circumstances. The 80km/h is considered to be the appropriate speed limit for the section of road between Craiglie and just north of Port Douglas and there are no plans to reduce it at this time.

Yours sincerely



Alan Tesch
Director-General