



Hon. Paul Lucas MP

22 NOV 2006

Our ref: MC25852

Your ref: 727-06



Queensland
Government

Minister for
Transport and Main Roads

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Re: Petition lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly - No. 727-06

I refer to a petition lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Shane Knuth MP, Member for Charters Towers, on 31 October, 2006 about the Clermont to Alpha Road.

I am advised that the current traffic volume on the Clermont to Alpha road varies from about 45 to 65 vehicles per day, including approximately 12 commercial vehicles. Due to these relatively low traffic volumes compared to other state-controlled roads in the area, the strategy has been to maintain the road and incrementally improve safety and trafficability.

I am further advised that the Department of Main Roads is committed to improving the safety of the road and has allocated approximately \$350 000 each year over the past seven years. This funding has provided almost 9km of new bitumen sealing and improved the road alignment. In 2006-07, Main Roads approved funding under the Safer Roads Sooner Program to provide an overtaking opportunity, located about 50km south of Clermont, totalling \$1m. The project proposes an additional 3km of sealed road and provides improved road safety and the opportunity to safely pass road trains and other slow moving vehicles.

In addition to these works and as part of normal maintenance on the Clermont – Alpha Road, Main Roads (through Belyando and Jericho Shire Councils) grades and resheets the gravel on the unsealed sections and periodically reseals the sealed sections. This maintenance ensures that the road is maintained in good condition and dust on the unsealed sections is kept to a minimum. It is recognised, however, that climatic conditions and traffic at times will have an impact on the road condition.

Yours sincerely

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Minister for Transport and Main Roads

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