



Warren Pitt MP  
Member for Mulgrave



Minister for Main Roads and  
Local Government

Our ref: MC31809

Your ref: 867-07

**8 JAN 2008**

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition No. 867-07 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Andrew Cripps MP, Member for Hinchinbrook, on 8 August 2007, about an upgrade of Kirrama Range Road.

The Department of Main Roads has advised that Kirrama Range Road is a gazetted local road, partly in Cardwell Shire and partly in Herberton Shire. I understand the petitioners believe responsibility for Kirrama Range Road should be with the state government, because of the cost of maintenance and because the road provides access to a national park. Kirrama Range Road is not a state-controlled road and this is consistent with other roads in Queensland which provide access to national parks. The responsibility for maintenance and upgrades for this road rests with council.

I am advised council did not seek Main Roads' assistance to clear or repair the road after Cyclone Larry. Other councils affected by the cyclone sought and received Main Roads' assistance to restore damaged roads to their pre-existing standard.

I am further advised that in July 2006, council closed Kirrama Range Road following legal advice regarding safety and liability due to the condition of the road and an inability or desire to fund any upgrade to the road. In April 2007, council sought expressions of interest for an engineering firm to undertake a planning study on Kirrama Range Road and determine how much funding would be necessary to bring the road up to a safe standard, so that it could be reopened.

Through the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS), Main Roads allocated \$30 000, matched by council, to fund a feasibility study for upgrading Kirrama Range Road. Council was responsible for the study.

Main Roads advises this planning study was completed in late September 2007, and a copy of the report was forwarded to Main Roads. The planning study details three options for funding a staged upgrade of Kirrama Range Road - ranging from a \$1.5m upgrade for use by 4WD and 10 tonne trucks only, to a \$6.6m upgrade with a full seal allowing use by conventional vehicles. Since this study was completed, funding has not formally been sought from Main Roads.

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The Cardwell Shire section of Kirrama Range Road is identified as a Local Road of Regional Significance (LRRS) and is managed by the North Queensland Regional Road Group (NQRRG). Through the NQRRG, council may apply for an increased allocation of funding under the TIDS for the upgrade of this road.

Main Roads will consider providing additional funding through TIDS if the council makes the upgrading of this road a priority. This would include a clear commitment from council for the ongoing maintenance of the road. As the road is under council's control, any decision for the road to re-open or remain closed rests with council.

Main Roads also advised council that it may wish to consider seeking funding to upgrade the road from the Federal Government's AusLink Strategic Regional Program. This program is designed to assist councils to develop regional land transport infrastructure that supports industry, tourism and economic development.

Yours sincerely

Warren Pitt MP  
**Minister for Main Roads**