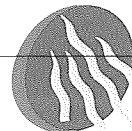




Warren Pitt MP
Member for Mulgrave



**Queensland
Government**

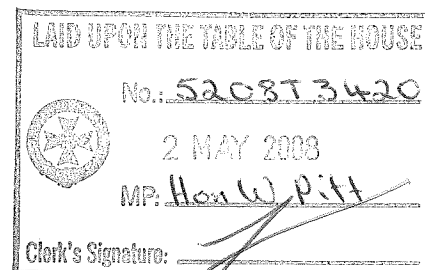
Our ref: MC35403

Your ref: 900-07

**Minister for Main Roads and
Local Government**

1 MAY 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. 900-07 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Stuart Robert MP, Member for Fadden, and Mr John-Paul Langbroek MP, Member for Surfers Paradise, about the noise and safety impacts of the concrete surface on the Pacific Motorway (M1), and the request to resurface it with asphalt/bitumen.

On 6 March 2007, Mr David Bevan, the Queensland Ombudsman, released his report in relation to noise and safety issues concerning the Pacific Motorway (now known as the M1), between the Logan Motorway and Nerang.

I can confirm that the Department of Main Roads accepted the findings in the report and appointed a dedicated project team in April 2007 to implement the Ombudsman's recommendations. The M1 Noise Treatment Project is well underway, entering a phase of rapid installation following written agreement with a majority of property owners to accept Main Roads' offer of in-house noise treatment.

It is important to note that the Ombudsman's report acknowledges that, the M1 provides a traffic environment that is at least twice as safe as the former Pacific Highway, and that the accident rate on the PCC (concrete) section is substantially lower than the accident rate on the OGAC (asphalt) sections. During the investigation, the Ombudsman had sought independent advice from the Queensland Police Service and the Royal Automobile Club of Queensland (RACQ). Both organisations dismissed the claims that the M1 is unsafe.

It is also worth noting that Main Roads has recently completed a preliminary safety performance assessment of the M1, which confirms the Ombudsman's opinion. Main Roads is also in the process of undertaking a safety performance review of the M1, comparing traffic volume and accident statistics with similar six- and eight-lane motorways within Australia.

I therefore concur with the Ombudsman's statement that resurfacing of the M1 is not an option as the cost of resurfacing and the resulting traffic disruption would be unacceptable to the majority of road users. However, there would be no significant reduction in noise levels in the medium or long-term.

Level 18 41 George Street Brisbane
PO Box 15031 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3227 8819
Facsimile +61 7 3221 9964
Website www.qld.gov.au

In regard to the visibility in wet weather, I am advised that the overall safety record of the M1 is very good and the number of accidents on the motorway during rain events, has not been high in comparison to the volume of traffic. However, I will ask Main Roads to continue researching ways of combating the effects of splash and spray on all pavement surface types.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "JWPitt".

Warren Pitt MP
Minister for Main Roads