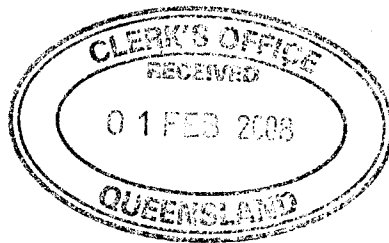




Hon John Mickel MP
Member for Logan



**Queensland
Government**

Our ref: MC34223 TR/07/0724

Your ref: 929-07

**Minister for Transport, Trade,
Employment and Industrial Relations**

31 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. 929-07 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Ms Meredith Caruana on 18 October 2007, requesting crossing supervisors for students crossing the Bruce Highway, before and after school, at Sarina State School. I apologise for the delay in responding.

I am advised that Queensland Transport officers completed Risk Assessments of the area in question after receiving written requests from concerned parents. The Risk Assessment did find that there are large numbers of vehicles using this section of road during certain times of the day. This is to be expected, as the Bruce Highway passes through the town of Sarina, adjacent to where the school is located. In circumstances such as this, traffic lights are the preferred road safety control measure because it offers protection to all pedestrians at all times of the day, not just during school hours. Pedestrian operated traffic lights have been operating adjacent to Sarina State School on the Bruce Highway for some time.

While Queensland Transport was conducting the assessment it was noticed that the children leaving the school grounds had a good knowledge of the operation of the traffic lights. All students were noted following safe procedures in using the lights. It was also noted that the school, and the pedestrian operated lights, lie within a 40km hour zone.

For these reasons, the Risk Assessment report concluded that the pedestrian operated lights are a very safe form of traffic control and may be more effective in controlling traffic than a person would be.

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I am further advised that Queensland Transport has assisted the parents of Sarina State School students with various road safety initiatives, including the formation of a Safe School Travel Committee. In addition, Queensland Transport officers have worked closely with the local Traffic Advisory Committee and with all road safety stakeholders in the area to address concerns in relation to the crossing. This has included recommendations for the school's Adopt-a-Cop to make presentations to the students to highlight issues of road safety.

I trust this information is of assistance. If you require any further information, please contact my Policy Advisor, Ms Catherine Savage on 3225 1779.

Yours sincerely

JOHN MICKEL MP
Minister for Transport, Trade,
Employment and Industrial Relations