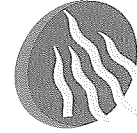




**Warren Pitt MP**  
Member for Mulgrave



**Queensland  
Government**

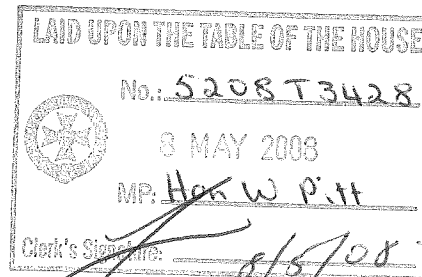
Our ref: MC35405

**Minister for Main Roads and  
Local Government**

Your ref: 986-08

**6 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. 986-08 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Andrew Cripps MP, Member for Hinchinbrook on 12 February 2008, about the inclusion of the Lentini Road connection as part of the current Bruce Highway upgrade in Tully.

I also received a copy of the petition from Mr Bruce Stockwell, Principal Petitioner and all petitioners were provided the following advice on 20 March 2008.

The Department of Main Roads advised that the former Coalition Federal Government capped the amount of funding for the project before the department had been able to do sufficient fieldwork investigation to provide a firm cost estimate. This occurred despite Main Roads advising in early 2006 that the \$128m cost estimate was a preliminary 2005 estimate only and would need to be reviewed after more fieldwork investigation had been done, once the upgrade route had been approved.

Main Roads is closely monitoring expenditure on the project, as it does for all construction contracts. Any cost savings achieved through the life of the project are shared between all alliance partners, including the Queensland Government. Therefore, all parties are driven to work together to maximise any potential savings.

I am advised that should cost savings be achieved during the project construction, a direct connection to the new highway by way of Lentini Road would be considered as part of the current project.

The main aim of the upgrade is to reduce flooding closures on the Bruce Highway along the 15.5km section between Corduroy Creek and Tully High School. Main Roads is delivering the project to achieve this including six new high-level bridges, sections of major culverts and re-routing of the highway to follow higher ground in some areas. I am advised that overall community feedback at the Main Roads' display in July 2007, at the Tully Show reinforced strongly that the project was delivering the most important features.

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The current project will provide residents in Lower Tully, Tully Heads and Hull Heads with access to the new highway alignment by way of short sections of the existing highway route north and south of Tully - Hull Road. The new highway will connect with the existing highway at the Dallachy Road intersection, with the second connection at the Rockingham Road intersection. These sections of road will continue to be maintained by Main Roads.

If you require any further information about the scope and progress of the Bruce Highway Upgrade south of Tully, please call Mr Ian Rose, Regional Director in Townsville, on 4720 7243. Mr Rose will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "W Pitt".

Warren Pitt MP  
**Minister for Main Roads**