



Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PET 38491
Your ref: A600274

1 December 2020

Mr Neil Laurie
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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to my interim response to petition 3361-20 about Dohles Rocks Road on/off ramps at Murrumba Downs and Griffin, which was tabled on 8 October 2020.

The Australian and Queensland governments have committed \$2.1 billion of joint funding (on an 80:20 federal:state funding basis) for upgrades to the Gateway Motorway and the Bruce Highway. As part of this joint funding, on 3 April 2018, without any prior consultation with the Queensland Government, the Australian Government announced a commitment of \$120 million towards a \$150 million project (on an 80:20 federal:state funding basis) to construct northbound entry and southbound exit (north-facing) ramps to the Bruce Highway at the Dohles Rocks Road interchange, Murrumba Downs. The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is unaware of the costing methodology adopted by the Australian Government for the proposed north-facing ramps, and the true cost of construction has yet to be determined.

The Dohles Rocks Road north-facing ramps form part of integrated planning underway for the Gateway Motorway and Bruce Highway Upgrades (GMBHU) project to achieve the optimum whole-of-network solution for the North Brisbane and South Moreton area.

TMR's initial modelling has identified that introducing north-facing ramps at Dohles Rocks Road interchange, as a standalone solution, will significantly increase congestion and result in increased travel time for the Bruce Highway during the morning and afternoon peak times, as more vehicles access the highway to make local trips. The initial traffic modelling shows that the average speed in the morning peak would drop from 53 km/h to 39 km/h, causing congestion to Deception Bay Road, and the average speed in the afternoon peak would drop from 82 km/h to 34 km/h, causing congestion to Linkfield Road on Gympie Arterial Road and to the Deagon Deviation on the Gateway Motorway. This congestion would see the morning peak extend past 9 am and the afternoon peak extend past 7 pm.

To accommodate the delivery of north-facing ramps at the Dohles Rocks Road interchange, TMR identified that a new road along the North South Urban Arterial (NSUA) corridor, informally called the 'Moreton Connector', between Dohles Rocks Road and Anzac Avenue—east of the Bruce Highway—would reduce the impacts on the highway traffic which would be caused by north-facing ramps alone. The new road will assist in preserving the primary function of the Bruce Highway as a key part of the national freight network by providing an alternative route for local traffic. Planning for NSUA will also be part of integrated planning undertaken for GMBHU.

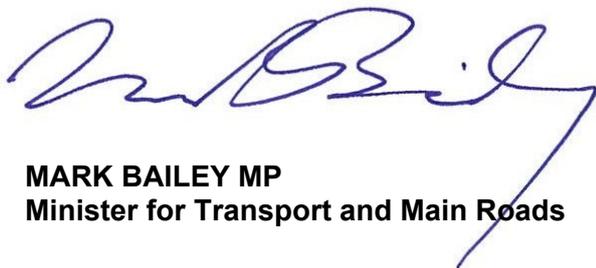
Due to the significant size and complexity of the GMBHU project area, including the Dohles Rocks Road north-facing ramps, substantial planning must be undertaken before any works can commence. TMR will undertake a preliminary evaluation of potential solutions, with options then to be developed into business cases. The business cases will then determine and recommend a preferred option for the upgrades from an engineering perspective, as well as taking into account financial, social, legislative and environmental considerations. The business cases will determine potential design and construction timeframes, which would then be subject to approval of the business case and available funding.

With community consultation well underway, TMR has been engaging with key stakeholders, including elected representatives, local councils and the community, early in the planning process to gather their valuable input. TMR is encouraging all interested community members to provide their feedback and ideas by visiting the project webpage at www.tmr.qld.gov.au and click (1) 'Projects', (2) 'see all projects' under the 'Investments in Queensland' heading, (3) 'North Coast', then (4) 'Gateway Motorway and Bruce Highway Upgrades, North Brisbane to Moreton Bay Region' and completing the online 'Have Your Say' survey, or providing feedback to the project team by emailing gmbhu@tmr.qld.gov.au, or calling the project hotline on 1800 607 755.

Consultation with the local community and potentially impacted stakeholders will be ongoing, all the way through to completion of project construction. TMR will continue to keep the community updated as the planning progresses.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Bailey', with a long, sweeping underline that extends downwards and to the right.

MARK BAILEY MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads