



Minister for Transport and Main Roads
Minister for Digital Services

Our ref: PET55049
Your ref: A1335324

11 September 2024

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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition 4057-24 lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 20 August 2024 about increasing highway speed limits to 130km/h.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is committed to a vision of zero deaths or serious injuries on Queensland roads. To achieve this, TMR and the Queensland Government have adopted the Safe System approach which recognises that all four pillars of the transport system related to road safety (vehicles, speed, road users, and roads and roadside infrastructure) must support each other to ensure comprehensive road safety. As the petitioners noted, there have been significant improvements to the safety features of modern vehicles as well as improvements to the road engineering standards, which have led to substantial reductions in road trauma.

However, increasing safety in one area should not be undone by implementing policies in another that would increase road trauma. The relationship between speed and risk of fatal or serious injury crashes has been well established. Austroads' *Guide to Road Safety Part 3: Safe Speeds* highlights a number of prominent studies that demonstrate even a small percentage change in travel speeds results in a large change in crashes, resulting in severe outcomes (fatal and/or serious injuries).

Additionally, it should be noted the number of fatalities on the Queensland road network has remained relatively static over the past decade, while serious injuries continue to increase. Therefore, it would be inappropriate to accept the petitioner's proposal to increase speed limits to 130km/h on highways.

Petitioners have also noted that an increase in speed has a potential to decrease congestion. Research confirms the higher the speed of traffic, during dense flow periods (peak times), the greater the probability of traffic flow breakdown and congestion. Increasing the speed limit—while reducing travel time outside of peak times—is likely to decrease capacity and increase the likelihood and duration of congestion during peak periods.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, connected strokes that form a stylized representation of the name 'Bart Mellish'.

BART MELLISH MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads
Minister for Digital Services