



Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PET 3409-20
Your ref: A662095

7 April 2021

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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 3409-20, lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 9 March 2021 seeking installation of noise abatement barriers in the Bald Hills area.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) understands noise generated from road traffic is a concern to residents. TMR manages noise on state-controlled roads in accordance with the *Transport Noise Management Code of Practice* (the code), which establishes a consistent standard for dealing with the effects of road traffic noise.

I am pleased to advise \$5 million is committed in the Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2020–21 to 2023–24 to replace and improve noise barriers along Gympie Road in Bald Hills. Planning is currently underway on this project.

I can also advise that works have just started on the \$4 million project to install 600 metres of noise barriers on Gympie Road between Ellison Road and Nevin Street.

Planning has started for upgrading of Gympie Arterial Road (Strathpine Road to Gateway Motorway) and the Gateway Motorway (Bracken Ridge to Pine River), as part of future upgrades to the Gateway Motorway and Bruce Highway – north Brisbane to Moreton Bay region.

When planning for future major road upgrades, TMR considers the social, economic and environmental impacts such as traffic noise. A road traffic noise assessment will be undertaken as part of the business case (expected to be finalised in 2023) for the Gateway Motorway and Bruce Highway upgrades, in accordance with the code.

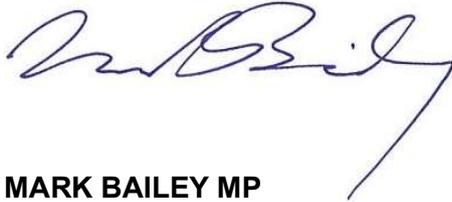
A road traffic noise assessment includes measuring noise levels at representative properties within the length of the proposed upgrade. Future noise levels are then modelled for all properties adjacent to the roadway. Noise levels are calculated for the current year of the study, as well as at least 10 years into the future, based on the new road layouts and forecasted traffic growth.

The code contains the noise level criteria which must be exceeded before TMR can consider treatment of noise affected properties, which in the case of those adjacent to an existing or upgraded road, is 68 decibels. Information gained as part of the assessment will assist TMR in identifying any potential noise mitigation measures, including recommended heights and lengths for noise barriers, or replacement and/or upgrading of existing noise barriers. This assessment will consider the Bald Hills area adjacent to Gympie Arterial Road (from Strathpine Road to the Gateway Motorway) and the Gateway Motorway (Bracken Ridge to Pine River).

Further information about the Gateway Motorway and Bruce Highway upgrades – north Brisbane to Moreton Bay region can be found on TMR's website by going to www.tmr.qld.gov.au/GatewayMwyBruceHwyUpgrades. If residents would like to talk with a team member, the project team can be reached on the Gateway Motorway and Bruce Highway upgrades project hotline on 1800 607 755 during business hours.

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 to the right.

MARK BAILEY MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads