

Minister for Transport and Main Roads

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30 September 2021

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition 3504-21 lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 1 September 2021 about increased overtaking lanes on the D'Aguilar Highway.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) acknowledges the important role the D'Aguilar Highway plays in Queensland's road network, servicing commercial, commuter and tourist traffic. TMR is committed to upgrading and maintaining the D'Aguilar Highway through an ongoing program of work which includes recently completed, current and upcoming projects.

The importance of the D'Aguilar Highway to the State's road network is supported by the Palaszczuk Government's allocation of \$37.39 million for works on the highway within the *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2021–22 to 2024–25*. In terms of planning for future upgrades, funding of \$751,000 has been allocated to undertake high-level corridor planning along the D'Aguilar Highway from Caboolture Connection Road in Moodlu to west of Wamuran. Planning is underway and is expected to be completed in 2023.

During the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2021 (financial years 2015–16 to 2020–21), TMR delivered approximately \$44.62 million of transport and roads infrastructure investments on the D'Aguilar Highway sections between Caboolture and Yarraman, in TMR's North Coast Region.

A safety improvement project east of Woodford township was completed in 2018, which involved the construction of an overtaking lane and upgrades to Ironbark Drive and Chambers Road intersections.

TMR has also started work on a \$12 million project to improve road safety on a four-kilometre section of the D'Aguilar Highway between west of Lord Lane at Moodlu and Wamuran township. The road safety improvements include widening the road to accommodate a painted, one metre wide centreline treatment with audible markings and improvements at the Franks Lane and Bye Road (western end) intersections to provide dedicated right-turn lanes. Roadside vegetation clearing will be undertaken at key locations to improve motorists' sight lines and reduce roadside hazards, and new signs to reinforce overtaking rules will also be installed. Works are anticipated to be completed in mid-2022, weather and construction scheduling permitting.

Design is now complete for the D'Aguilar Highway safety improvements project between Sandy Creek and Kilcoy. The project will focus on treatments to improve overall safety for road users and reduce the potential for head-on, rear-end and run-off-road crashes on this section of the highway.

Road widening will accommodate wider shoulders and wide centreline treatment. Wide centrelines improve safety by providing additional separation between vehicles travelling in opposite directions. Shoulder widening improves safety by providing an additional trafficable area to pull over, assists emergency vehicles to pass, accommodates wide vehicles and provides greater separation between cars and bike riders. Early works were undertaken in late 2020 to prepare for construction, including lantana clearing and tree trimming. Construction is anticipated to start in late 2021, weather and construction scheduling permitting.

In addition, design is now complete for an intersection safety improvement and pavement rehabilitation project along approximately four kilometres of the D'Aguilar Highway, from just west of Kilcoy–Beerwah Road to just west of Stony Creek Road, at Stony Creek. Works will improve the road surface and underlying pavement, extending the life of the road and reducing ongoing routine maintenance costs. The intersection safety treatments will provide dedicated right-turn lanes at the D'Aguilar Highway intersections with Jenkinsons Road, Bateman Road and Stony Creek Road, reducing the risk of rear-end crashes for vehicles waiting to turn right at these intersections, while improving traffic flow for vehicles continuing on the D'Aguilar Highway. Construction is anticipated to start in late 2021, weather and construction scheduling permitting.

TMR will continue to carry out regular inspections and monitoring of the D'Aguilar Highway to ensure it remains in a safe and trafficable condition for road users. Any identified safety issues will be repaired as quickly as possible to provide a safer environment for motorists and other road users.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

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MARK BAILEY MP Minister for Transport and Main Roads