



Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PET 3262-20

Your ref: A559427

12 June 2020

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petitions 3262-19 and 3340-20 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mr Nick Dametto MP, Member for Hinchinbrook on 19 May 2020 about upgrades to the Bruce Highway at Black River.

I am pleased to advise that construction of upgrades to this section of the Bruce Highway will commence next year. The Queensland Government, in partnership with the Australian Government, will deliver the \$107.65 million Townsville Northern Access Intersections Upgrade (TNAIU), which will see the duplication of a 5.2-kilometre section of the highway between Veales Road and Pope Road. This project will deliver improved safety, access, efficiency and travel time reliability for the more than 13,000 freight and passenger vehicles travelling on this section of the Bruce Highway each day.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is currently progressing detailed design for the project, and construction tenders will be called in late 2020.

In relation to the speed limit on this section of the Bruce Highway, TMR advises the current 100km/h speed limit is appropriate and has been set in accordance with the *Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices*. By following this process, road users can be confident that speed limits are being set in a consistent manner across the state.

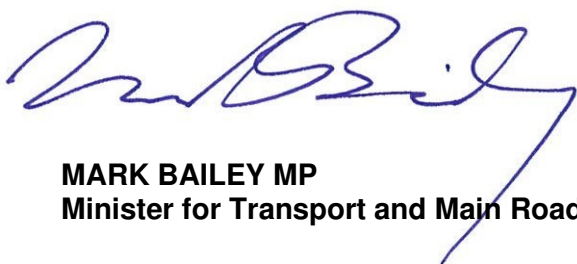
When assessing speed limits, consideration is given to the road function, prevailing traffic speeds, road environment and crash history. The basis of these guidelines recognises that regulatory speeds must be appropriate to the general environment of the road, otherwise motorists will largely disregard the imposition of unreasonable limits. Realistic and credible speed limits will be observed by most road users, and can be effective in regulating traffic flow, reducing crashes and maximising safety.

The Queensland Government takes road safety very seriously. I understand another fatal crash occurred on the Bruce Highway at Black River on 26 May 2020, which the Queensland Police Service is currently investigating. I offer my deepest sympathies to those involved in this and other crashes, as well as their families. I am advised TMR is awaiting the outcome of these investigations and will also complete a review. Road safety has always been a top priority of the Queensland Government, and I have asked TMR to act immediately where any safety issues are identified.

TMR will continue to monitor the Bruce Highway at Black River to ensure the speed limit is safe and compatible with the road conditions and traffic volumes. It is anticipated temporary speed reductions and other traffic control measures will be implemented on this section of the Bruce Highway when construction of the TNAIU project commences in mid-2021, weather permitting.

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