

Re Our petition namely

Immediate alteration of overtaking lanes and speed limit at the Kuranda end of the Kuranda Range Road (KRR), Kennedy Highway

Eligibility - Queensland residents

Principal Petitioner:
Melissa Clinton
16 Walnut Close
SPEEWAH QLD 4881

I believe we we should not take the minister's response to our petition as the end of this issue.

Sponsoring Member: The Clerk of the Parliament

Posting Date: 8/07/2020

Closing Date: 8/08/2020

Tabled Date: 11/08/2020

Responded By: Hon Mark Bailey MP on 10/09/2020

Total Signatures - 1078

I've drafted a response dealing mainly with how the

system of petitioning has let us down as a community. Would you look over it and suggest any improvements and make any comments you see fit. I'd like to get this off as early as possible so your response by Monday 21st would help.

This email to go to Minister The Hon Mark Bailey for TMR and The Hon Leanne Enoch, Minister for Environment.

TO: The Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland

Queensland residents draws to the attention of the House the multiple negative effects of the 80 kph double (4 lanes) overtaking lanes at the location. Cassowary deaths in this wildlife corridor are highly significant, ruinous and damaging to both community mental health and our tourism potential. In less than six months three "Endangered" (EPBC Act 1999 and Nature Conservation Act 1992 Qld) cassowary sibling chicks have been killed by motorists in this location and a breeding pair both continue to cross here multiple times per day.

Although TMR states there is "no technical justification for changing the speed limit at this location", we the undersigned decree that there are moral and duty-of-care obligations that prove that the 'technical' facts are morally and legally unambiguous. It is clear that avoiding cassowaries, whilst navigating overtaking drivers in both directions at 80 kph+ is impossible, distressing and dangerous to motorists and cassowaries.

Your petitioners therefore, request the House to direct TMR to immediately rectify this threatening situation and mitigate the risks by:

- altering the overtaking lanes - making the outside lines 'slow vehicle turnout lanes' whilst directing traffic to the inner lanes for 60 kph thoroughfare
- reduce the speed limit from 80 kph to 60 kph to remain consistent with the rest of the KRR through to the Kuranda/Myola Road traffic lights
- investigate additional 'intelligent' wildlife safety solutions leading up to this location, and
- monitor driver behaviour and cassowary crossing points (Latch, 2007) until a final decision is made regarding the route.

and subsequent responses by ministers concerning the above dated 9 September 2020:

We have now received the official minister's response. It is the same old regurgitated advice received from the local TMR office, reinforcing our concern that any response to the community is the product of emails that simply go round and round in a closed circuit of ministers and managers.

There are serious technical issues relating the the placement and speed limits of the subject overtaking lanes which three cassowary deaths sadly attest to. These issues are not even being investigated. There has been no consultation with any members of the community relating to these issues. We had hoped for better.

We had hoped the Minister The Hon Mark Bailey would call for independent engineers to assess the

site and that we'd be called to point out the problems. We had hoped that Minister The Hon Leanne Enoch would have been concerned enough to confer with Minister Bailey on the matter.

If, as appears to be the case, that concerns voiced by the community and dismissed at the local level, then referred by us to top officials, the ministers, are simply referred back to the problem local department to be dealt with as before, unsatisfactorily, then it shows that the system circumvents the public and does not serve it as it should.

From this, we deduce that the system of referral and petitioning is broken. We are lost as to how change that reflects local knowledge and experience can be instigated. We thought the purpose of government was to assist with this. It's not.

We ask again if you could review your response to our petition with a view to investigating the situation with independent assessors, including ourselves.

Signed: