



Minister for Transport; Planning; Ports

Your ref: A905589; Petition No. 003

Our ref: 72-34215

Hon Peter Foster MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
env@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Hon Peter Foster MLC

PETITION NO. 003 – SPEED LIMIT ON BUSSELL HIGHWAY

I refer to your letter dated 5 August 2021, regarding *Petition No. 003 – Speed Limit on Bussell Highway* tabled by the Hon Colin Holt MLC in the Legislative Council on 5 May 2021.

As the sole speed zoning authority in Western Australia, Main Roads is responsible for setting and reviewing speed zones in accordance with Australian standards and best practice guidelines from other States and Territories. Speed limits across the network are set to achieve a balance between road safety, community amenity and transport efficiency.

To achieve this, many factors are taken into account during the speed zoning process, including the road function, traffic volumes, types of road users, roadside development, the frequency and type of intersections, the number of crossovers and reported crash data.

Bussell Highway is a primary distributor road designed to carry commuter, commercial and tourist traffic between Augusta and Bunbury. During 2020/2021, the section of highway south of Capel Drive was used by an average 17,000 vehicles per day.

In the five years to 31 December 2020, there were a total of 15 reported crashes on the Bussell Highway, at the three main intersections in Capel (two at Stirling Road which is the access point to Peppermint Grove Beach, six at Spurr Street, and seven at Capel Drive south). Of the 15 crashes, four required hospital treatment, one required medical treatment and 10 involved property damage only. To put in perspective, the intersection of Capel Drive and Bussell Highway is ranked 1,949 in terms of crash frequency across the state, with Spurr Street (ranked 2,961) and Stirling Road (6,577).

The State Government has acknowledged that traffic volumes between Bunbury and Busselton exceed the capacity of the current single carriageway section of Bussell Highway at peak times (particularly Friday / Sunday afternoons, holidays and long weekends) resulting in significant congestion and excessive delays.

The \$85 million Bussell Highway Duplication Project will help to alleviate these issues through construction of an additional 17 km of dual carriageway for the section of road between Capel and north of Busselton. As part of the current roadworks, temporary traffic management and a reduced speed limit is currently in place on the Highway, past Capel.

Main Roads has committed to undertaking a Safe System Review of this section of Highway, which will consider all aspects of safety performance including speed limits, the engineering structure, previous crash history and driver behaviour. The Review will be undertaken a few weeks after the Stage One works are completed, which is scheduled for September/October 2021, which will allow Main Roads to collect further traffic data and video footage to assess any changes in driver behaviour, as a result of the new road and traffic conditions.

Yours sincerely



**HON RITA SAFFIOTI MLA
MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT**

08 SEP 2021