



Minister for Transport; Finance

Our Ref: 53-00519
Your Ref: Petition No 30

Hon S O'Brien MLC
Chairman
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
18 – 32 Parliament Place
WEST PERTH WA 6000

Dear ~~Mr O'Brien~~ *Simon*

I refer to your letter of 8 April 2014 seeking comments on Petition No 30 – Great Eastern Highway between The Lakes Roadhouse Beechina and Northam Bypass that was tabled by the Member for the Agricultural Region, Hon Paul Brown MLC, in the Legislative Assembly on 19 February 2014.

The section of Great Eastern Highway from The Lakes Roadhouse to the Northam Bypass is recognised as an important strategic link of National highway within the Perth to Adelaide route and is primarily the funding responsibility of the Commonwealth Government.

Main Roads has recently completed some widening works on Great Eastern Highway to provide a one metre sealed shoulder which greatly improves the opportunity for driver recovery during a potential loss of control situation. Audible edgelines have also been installed to help improve driver awareness of straying from the traffic lane.

A number of overtaking opportunity improvements have also been constructed over the years on Great Eastern Highway. Currently, there are six eastbound and five westbound passing lanes on the Highway between The Lakes Roadhouse and the Northam Bypass with a passing opportunity available every eight kilometres.

The agency has future plans to improve the alignment of Great Eastern Highway, replace four narrow bridges and construct two additional passing lanes in the vicinity of Cheddaring Road. In addition, some improvements are also proposed near the Bakers Hill Township to help reduce speed and conflict between trucks, local traffic and pedestrian movements. While funding is not yet allocated to these projects, they will be considered as part of future Commonwealth and State budgetary processes.

Further improvement options for The Lakes Roadhouse to Northam section of Great Eastern Highway is currently being considered including a "two plus one" configuration of three traffic lanes with a central median barrier or full dual lanes in both directions with separation similar to the adjacent Sawyers Valley to Lakes section. However, this is a long term option and is currently unfunded.

In the interim, Main Roads continues to monitor the Great Eastern Highway from The Lakes Roadhouse to the Northam Bypass and undertakes maintenance works as necessary to ensure motorist safety.

Yours sincerely



**HON DEAN NALDER MLA
MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT**

20 MAY 2014