



MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

INGHAM BYPASS PETITION LODGED

Member for Hinchinbrook, Andrew Cripps, has lodged a petition in the Queensland Parliament supported by 1,599 individuals in the Hinchinbrook electorate in relation to the proposal by the Department of Main Roads to upgrade the Bruce Highway between Ingham and the Cardwell Range, which includes a bypass of the township of Ingham.

Mr Cripps said while the alignment of the proposed bypass is not yet finalised and was the subject of ongoing consultation with the local community, businesses and industry, the petitioners were concerned that the proposed bypass could have a negative impact on Ingham's economy and employment opportunities for local residents.

"The upgrade of the Bruce Highway between Ingham and the Cardwell Range is designed to achieve an enhanced level of flood immunity on a section of highway that is notorious for flooding, particularly at Palm Creek in the township of Ingham, at Gairloch and at the Seymour River and Arnott Creek near the base of the Cardwell Range" said Mr Cripps.

"Another goal associated with the upgrade includes road safety, in terms of removing heavy vehicles from Lannercost Street and Herbert Street in Ingham. Main Roads has undertaken an extensive consultation process with the local community, firstly in relation to several wide corridors of interest and more recently, on more defined draft alignments" he said.

"All of these draft alignments involve a bypass of the township of Ingham. The petition also raises the potential for the bypass to impact on local farms and community infrastructure. I have raised the issue of the possible impact on community infrastructure with Main Roads and stressed that community organisations must not be disadvantaged" said Mr Cripps.

"Although there has been active consultation with local stakeholder groups, this consultation needs to be ongoing. Main Roads has released an economic impact study undertaken after direct consultation with businesses in Ingham. While during the construction phase, local businesses may benefit, a long term loss in annual turnover has been identified" he said.

"This means Main Roads needs to work towards strategies that will minimise these losses. As such, the request from the petitioners that alternative options be explored for mitigating the impact of flooding on the Bruce Highway to minimise any detrimental economic impact on communities in Ingham and the Herbert River district is a legitimate one" said Mr Cripps.

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