

**TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF  
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**This petition** of citizens of Australia who travel in the Toowoomba region **draws to the attention of the House** the inadequate condition of the Warrego Highway, particularly where it crosses the Great Dividing Range and traverses Toowoomba. The existing range crossing is a significant barrier to efficient freight and passenger transport, having steep grades of up to 10% and tight curves that restrict maximum speeds to only 60 to 80 km/h. As a result, the existing crossing barely copes with continually increasing traffic volumes.

There is no effective way to upgrade the existing crossing, because of the constraints posed by the steep terrain and surrounding urban development.

Through Toowoomba, heavy and small vehicles are currently forced to negotiate 15 sets of traffic lights, with a further six sets expected to be installed shortly. Residents and business operators are concerned about safety, noise, air pollution and general disruption to local traffic.

**We ask the House to:** immediately commit to funding from the Building Australia Fund for construction of the "Toowoomba Bypass" to:

- improve safety for motorists and heavy vehicle drivers;
- provide an efficient route for the transportation of goods to Brisbane and overseas markets;
- provide a safer alternative to the steep gradient of the current range crossing for drivers of heavy and passenger vehicles;
- create a quicker route to Brisbane or to the west, for those not wanting to travel through Toowoomba;
- reduce traffic movements in Toowoomba city.