

TO THE HONOURABLE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

This petition of certain citizens of Australia draws the attention of the HOUSE to the dangerous condition of the Jubilee Bridge which crosses the South Johnstone River in the centre of the Innisfail Township in North Queensland. This bridge is the main traffic (vehicle and pedestrian) thoroughfare linking the residents of East Innisfail to the CBD. The current bridge is sinking and its complete closure is imminent.

Over 30% of Innisfail residents live in East Innisfail and the bridge has approximately 8,000 vehicular movements per day. The closure of the bridge will not only be a major inconvenience to our residents but it will place enormous additional strain on the Highway through Innisfail, as this is the only alternate route.

The Cassowary Coast Regional Council is listed as Queensland's most financially stressed Local Government Authority and has no way of funding or even making a considerable contribution to the construction of a new bridge. Our region is also suffering from unemployment levels far in excess of the National average and we believe that the proposed new bridge is a "shovel ready" project that fits perfectly into the criteria for Stimulus Package Funding.

We therefore ask the HOUSE to provide \$8 Million to supplement the \$12 Million that the Queensland Government has already committed to having the bridge replaced.