

Inquest into the death of Rebecca Louise Fenton

Rebecca Louise Fenton died on 24 June 2013 from injuries sustained when she 'rear-ended' a second vehicle which was stationary on the Capricorn Highway as it was waiting to turn right.

The coroner found driver inattention and the configuration of the intersection contributed to the accident. The intersection does not direct a driver to the left, to move around the driver who is stationary and turning right.

Coroner David O'Connell delivered his findings of inquest on 1 May 2015.

The Queensland Government responds to recommendations directed to government agencies at inquests by informing the community if a recommendation will be implemented or the reason why a recommendation is not supported. The departments named in this response will provide implementation updates until the recommendation is delivered. Further information relating the implementation of recommendations can be obtained from the responsible minister named in the response.

Recommendation 1

The intersection be upgraded to a channelised right-hand turn style intersection for westbound traffic.

Response and action: the recommendation is implemented.

Responsible agency: Department of Transport and Main Roads.

On 22 September 2015, the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply responded:

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has previously provided comment on the channelised right-hand turn treatment to the access owner (Jellinbah Mine) and supports the proposal by Jellinbah Mine to upgrade the intersection. TMR will confirm Jellinbah Mine's commitment to the proposal.

On 11 February 2016 the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply and the Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games responded:

TMR met with Jellinbah Mine to discuss the upgrade work on 11 September 2015. Jellinbah Mine agreed in principle to continue with the work to provide a channelized right-hand treatment at this location. TMR also liaised with the consulting engineer engaged by the Jellinbah mine confirming the proposed treatment.

TMR will continue to liaise with the Jellinbah Mine on the intersection upgrade.

On 8 July 2016 the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply and the Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games responded:

The Department of Transport and Main Roads approved the access design and is processing the application to work in the state controlled road corridor.

Jellinbah Mine are preparing to go to tender soon to secure a suitable contractor. They have advised that they expect the access works to be completed in late 2016.

On 14 May 2017 the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply responded:

Approval was granted to commence work at the intersection. The tender process for a construction contractor will commence shortly.

On 26 February 2018 the Minister for Transport and Main Roads responded:

Work to upgrade the intersection of the Capricorn Highway and Boonal Haul Road east of Blackwater commenced on 2 May 2017.

The work includes construction of a protected right-turn channelized lane in the westbound direction at the intersection, and a concrete barrier on the southern side of the road between the highway and the railway line. Intersection flag lighting is also included in the design.

The constructions works were completed in August 2017.

Recommendation 2

The Department of Transport and Main Roads take all steps necessary to assist in the early implementation of the channelised right-hand turn intersection upgrade.

Response and action: the recommendation is implemented.

Responsible agency: Department of Transport and Main Roads.

On 22 September 2015, the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply responded:

A condition for a barrier between the roadway and the rail line has delayed any commitment by Jellinbah Mine to proceed with construction.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) will confirm technical detail of the barrier and pursue alternative treatment to reduce cost of work.

On 11 February 2016 the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply and the Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games responded:

TMR's Fitzroy District is currently seeking funding to construct the barrier adjacent to the rail corridor.

TMR will continue to assist in the implementation of the channelised right-hand treatment at this location.

On 8 July 2016 the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply and the Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games responded:

Funding for the Department of Transport and Main Roads' contribution to the works, the installation of the barrier between roadway and rail reserve, has been approved and is included in the Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program.

On 14 May 2017 the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply responded:

The funding agreement for the barrier contribution by the Department of Transport and Main Roads is being arranged. The work will commence once the funding agreement is finalised.

On 26 February 2018 the Minister for Transport and Main Roads responded:

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The work includes construction of a protected right-turn channelized lane in the westbound direction at the intersection, and a concrete barrier on the southern side of the road between the highway and the railway line. Intersection flag lighting is also included in the design.

The constructions works were completed in August 2017.

Recommendation 3

The Department of Transport and Main Roads nominate for the benefit of external parties, a single, dedicated, contact person, within the department, to co-ordinate and progress, the intersection upgrade.

Response and action: the recommendation is implemented.

Responsible agency: Department of Transport and Main Roads.

On 22 September 2015, the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply responded:

The Department of Transport and Main Roads nominated the District Director of Fitzroy District to be the single point of contact.