

ONLINE ARTICLE

Title:	"Road tough on trucks, drivers"
Date:	Saturday, 16 June 2012
Publication:	Warwick Daily News
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Frasers Livestock Transport trucks tackle Mt Lindesay Rd.

IT TAKES a lot to continuously tackle the drive from Legume to Woodenbong along Mt Lindesay Rd and the feat is not lost on one trucking boss.

Frasers Livestock Transport director Ross Fraser said he had major concerns about the road.

"It is an important connection from the Darling Downs to the Northern Rivers and is important for freight and ," he said.

"I worry about the safety of my drivers who cart cattle to the abattoir in Casino.

"The welfare of my drivers, the cattle and the general public is paramount."

Mr Fraser said he thought the road could use an upgrade.

"At the moment the road is not up to B-double status," he said.

"It has a huge effect on the cost of freighting product and an upgrade would reduce the number our vehicles on the road.

Mr Fraser said the ability of his drivers to continuously drive the road was their own.

"It just comes down to their experience that allows them to do it. They drive safely and to the road conditions."

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The Mt Lindesay Rd from Legume to Woodenbong is littered with pot holes.

Linden Morris

FIGHTING to upgrade what some have labelled possibly the worst road in Australia has been an uphill struggle but the light at the end of the tunnel may not be too far away.

With local councils and stakeholders on both sides of the border working towards the same outcome upgrading the condition of the road remains a priority.

Southern Downs Regional Council councillor and Downs to Rivers Action Committee chair Neil Meiklejohn said plans for the upgrade were in a good position.

"This is the closest we have come to seeing some advance because the state government has consented to fund 50% of an updated report on the road," he said.

Tenterfield Shire Council acting director of engineering services Ralf Stoeckeler said the survey would then be used to lobby for funding.

"One of the things we want the revised study to look at is to predict the impact of a freight and tourism increase," Mr Stoeckeler said.

"This will help with our submission for federal funding of the upgrade."

Cr Meiklejohn said the upgrade works needed to be done would be all encompassing.

"A number of bridges have already been upgraded but there is still the stabilisation of some areas, widening of others and the possible realignment of new sections of road to be considered," he said.

"Ballpark these issues will cost anywhere from \$50 million to over \$100 million."

Travellers of the Mt Lindesay Rd, Duncan and Louise Weller, said an upgrade would be welcomed by all motorists.

"It is a rough road and a shocking drive," Mrs Weller said.

"We have also found the blind spots around corners to be a problem and there are a lot of them," Mr Weller said.