

Jenny Wells – Letter to Rob Messenger – Raines Road – May 08

Dear Rob,

Regarding Raines Road South Kolan.

I am the lucky mother of the five most beautiful children in the world. My husband, Col and I moved our family to Bucca from Morayfield in time for the first day of School this year.

We had dreams of building our own home and future together here. They were big dreams. They were worthwhile dreams.

During the April school holidays everything stopped. The whole world stopped. My two little girls Clare and Louisa ... we had a very bad car accident on Rains Road.

I get Nicky out of the car, heard Laura were screaming. Louisa didn't move. Her eyes haunt me. She had a soft pulse. I got her out of her baby seat and couldn't see Clare, the roof was in the way. I got Laura out of the back and went around to Clare. A bone was sticking out of her little leg. She wasn't moving. I felt a tiny pulse.

I tried to get her out but I couldn't. I ran around the car onto the road to look for a house, and a car came. I was caring Louisa like a rag doll screaming and begging for help. One man driving a car stopped and went for help.

I ran back to the car and lay Louisa on the branches and leaves beside the car. I can't get Clare out. Her eyes are open too... like Louisa's and I can't get her out. I picked up Louisa and ran to the house for help.

When Nick got out of the car he said, this isn't a good day mum... we shouldn't have had an accident. Nick is Clare's older twin. Nick is 4 years old. Big words for a little boy.

There are lots of things I remember about that day and lots I have forgotten. The slide show in my head gets muddled up. I am terrified for Laura who is six years old and Nick of the slide shows that play in their heads of that day.

This movie theatre doesn't close.

My husband and seven-year-old son, Nathan were at home working on our shed. I tried desperately to contact Col. I remember screaming into the phone that we'd had a bad accident but didn't know where we were.

Someone nearby tried to help let Col know where but the Telstra country 3 G phone dropped out. My husband knew that I and the four youngest of our five children were in an accident but because of inadequate and ineffective service from Telstra to the Bucca area and Bundaberg district he was left not knowing what to do or where to go or exactly what had happened.

It is so cruel. From Billabong Way to Raines road is only a few kilometers. But it was galaxies away for us when we needed to be with each other. When Col finally found out where we were it was too late.

I had been resuscitating Louisa and she had taken and let go of her last breath without her daddy there. Col was there when Louisa took her first breath and Nathan cut her umbilical cord.

Louisa and Nathan had a special love for each other you could see in their eyes. Louisa is 2 years old.

My eldest daughter Laura is in first grade. Laura said, "When I grow up and I am big and get married and have babies, they won't have any aunts" It isn't my unborn grand children's fault that we had an accident. It wasn't even my fault.

Raines Road is a very busy road. Every driver and passenger who has traveled on it, deserve for it to be made safe. Every person who lives on Raines Road deserves for it to be made safe.

The kind of people who helped us that day should not have those awful memories of what happened. The kind of people who's house we used as a makeshift hospital, the wife was doing heart massage on my baby while I resuscitated her – She should not have those memories. She had 000 on the phone telling her what to do. She knows what they told her but wouldn't tell me.

That lady who lives on Raines Road doesn't deserve for the blood all over her floor and lounge. A baby's blood. My baby's blood. That lady deserves for Raines's Road to be made completely safe.

"Clare Bear" was my cautious child. Clare never liked being pushed to high or too fast on the swings. Clare always knew the rules and how to keep them. Clare was very good at trying to help her siblings be good when they didn't want to and earned the name of the policeman..., which she hated.

Clare had her first and last ride in a helicopter up from Raines Road – She would have hated it. It would have been loud and bumpy and she would have been frightened, and I couldn't hold her hand.

Clare flew away from Raines Road, Col and I couldn't even tell her we loved her and to be brave and that it would be OK – it wasn't any way, it would have been a lie. Clare did up her seat belt all by her self for the first time that day.

I cuddled Louisa in an ambulance down rains Road all the way to the Bundy Base. I held her tight and sang wiggles song to her. She wasn't breathing anymore. Louisa didn't breath because of Raines Road. Clare was in hospital because of Rains Road.

Clare nearly had a aeroplane trip to Brisbane hospital, which would have saved her because of Raines road.

Clare was in theatre – they were trying to stabilize her for the flight. Clare was very grown up for a little four year old. Clare decided to not let Louisa go away alone and I can't bare not kissing and cuddling them.

Our family is truly, truly heart broken. A heart could never be broken like this. Every tear I cry is another piece falling from my heart.

Through this unbearable pain we have met some wonderfully kind and caring people. Our neighbors are our new friends and the SH Kolan School and Kindy and communities of Bucca area and Bundy have been so incredibly supportive in so many ways.

But these same people are crying tears of sorrow repeated, as we have learned of many other terrible car accidents on Raines Road due t the poor road quality. These people are crying because they have petitioned Council in the past to fix this road so no more accidents would happen.

But Raines Road hasn't been fixed and I have lost my two littlest girls because of Raines Road and a bad decision by previous council.

I won't allow another accident to happen because of Raines Road current state. I implore you to get Council to do what needs to be done to make Raines Road safe enough to not cause accidents on its own.

I understand that there are protocols and procedures for these things to happen. One split second can't be reversed. Not Ever. So I want this fixed and to be done properly – not patchy or otherwise it doesn't count within the next month.

I know things can be done in a hurry when the right person moves on it. Please help us. Locals have told us that you can help us.

No one can bring my daughters back to me, but this council can fix Raines Road before anyone else is hurts or worse.

Thank you for all your time and effort involved in this endeavor. I believe that you will help us.

Regards

Jen Wells