

Question on Notice

No. 834

Asked on Wednesday 15 May 2019

MR D LAST ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the development of Elliot Springs south of Townsville and increasing volumes of traffic on the Bruce Highway—

Will the Minister advise when additional lanes will be constructed on the Bruce Highway between Elliot Springs (Sunbird Motel) and the Vantassel Street intersection?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Burdekin for the question.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) recognises that traffic is increasing on this section of the Bruce Highway, particularly with continued residential growth south of Townsville. TMR has a strategic plan in place for the progressive upgrade of the Bruce Highway south of Townsville, in line with traffic growth and residential development. TMR continues to monitor the capacity of this section of the Bruce Highway.

The Bruce Highway, between Nome and Cluden, currently has traffic volumes of around 13,000 vehicles per day and does not yet meet the need for duplication to four lanes. The requirement for four-laning would typically be reached when traffic volumes exceed 18,000 vehicles per day.

TMR is also working with the Elliot Springs development to manage residential growth and associated traffic impacts on the highway. An Infrastructure Agreement is in place with the developer to guide the delivery of progressive upgrades to relevant sections of the highway, including intersection and capacity upgrades. The timing of these upgrades will be dependent on the rate of development and will ensure the highway can continue to cater to increasing traffic volumes.

Over the next few years, the Palaszczuk Government is focused on delivering more than \$550 million worth of safety and flood immunity upgrades on the Bruce Highway between Ayr and Townsville.

Work has started on the jointly funded \$514.3 million Bruce Highway Haughton River Floodplain Upgrade project. This project will reduce the frequency and duration of weather-related closures on the Bruce Highway, as well as significantly improve safety.

Further north, works have started on the jointly funded \$43 million Bruce Highway safety upgrades between Mailman Road and Mackenzie Creek. These works will include pavement widening and installation of wide centre line treatment, the construction of three new overtaking lanes and safety upgrades at the Cromarty Siding Road intersection.

The Palaszczuk Government will deliver \$23 billion in transport and roads infrastructure across the State, as outlined in the *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2019–20 to 2022–23*, with an estimated average of approximately 21,500 direct jobs over the life of the program.

Of this, the Northern District will benefit from the investment of \$1.501 billion over the same four-year period, supporting an average of approximately 1200 jobs over the life of the program.