

Question on Notice

No. 675

Asked on 14 July 2020

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise what percentage of the \$100m recently allocated to sealing unsealed roads will be spent in the Burdekin Electorate and which roads will be sealed?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Burdekin for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to progressively sealing unsealed roads across Queensland, subject to available funding and competing statewide priorities.

During the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2019 (financial years 2015–16 to 2018–19), the Palaszczuk Government delivered approximately \$276.44 million of transport and roads infrastructure investment specifically in the Burdekin Electorate.

The *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2019–20 to 2022–23* (QTRIP) represents a record investment in road and transport infrastructure for the fourth year in a row, with \$23 billion committed over the next four years, supporting an average of approximately 21,500 direct jobs over the life of the program. Approximately \$884 million is committed across the Burdekin Electorate, supporting an estimated average of 592 direct jobs over the life of the program. Some key projects for the Burdekin Electorate in QTRIP are:

- \$35 million for widening Peak Downs Highway (Clermont–Nebo) between Wuthung Road and Caval Ridge Mine
- \$28.8 million for paving and sealing Bowen Developmental Road (Collinsville–Belyando Crossing) between Rockingham Creek and Mount Coolon
- \$16 million for paving and sealing Pasha Road, which reflects a 2017 Palaszczuk Government election commitment.

Within the Burdekin Electorate, the jointly-funded 15-year \$12.6 billion Bruce Highway Upgrade Program (2013–24 to 2027–28) is delivering upgrades between Ayr and Townsville, Proserpine and Bowen and Bowen and Ayr, including:

- \$514.3 million for constructing bridges and approaches at Haughton River Floodplain, between Horseshoe Lagoon and Palm Creek
- \$47.2 million for rehabilitation of Burdekin River Bridge
- \$29.9 million for widening and sealing Emu Creek–Heronval Road and Hay Gully–Drays Road
- \$23.4 million for widening and sealing between Mailman Road–Mackenzie Creek
- \$12.5 million for widening between Bowen and Merinda
- \$11.3 million for overtaking lanes between Mailman Road–Mackenzie Creek.

As part of our COVID-19 economic recovery response, in partnership with the Australian Government, the Palaszczuk Government has announced over \$1 billion in new and accelerated funding for road network improvements right across Queensland. This funding injection will deliver freight efficiency benefits, improve road safety, sustain local jobs and lift the state's economy. The funding comprises three packages of works, namely:

- \$185 million for accelerated delivery of a jointly-funded Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) Early Works package for upgrades to key freight corridors, including the Flinders, Carnarvon, Balonne, Gore and Dawson Highways, the Dawson Developmental Road (Springsure–Tambo), the Gulf, Kennedy and Gregory Developmental Roads, the Proserpine–Shute Harbour Road and the local government-controlled Floraville Road in Burke Shire, supporting 180 direct jobs in regional Queensland. In the Burdekin Electorate, the ROSI Early Works package includes \$11.6 million overtaking lanes on Flinders Highway (Townsville - Charters Towers) between Townsville and Mingela Range
- \$400 million state funding injection over three years towards a \$440.25 million program of road upgrades, as part of the Queensland Economic Strategy: *Unite and recover for Queensland Jobs*, supporting 430 direct jobs across Queensland. This initiative comprises 15 capital upgrade projects, as well as \$200 million for capital road network resilience packages, focussed on delivering pavement strengthening and widening of key freight routes, strengthening and replacing ageing bridges and culverts, and progressive sealing of sections of unsealed roads in regional and remote areas of Queensland
- \$415 million jointly-funded injection over two years, as part of the Australian Government's Economic Stimulus package, to deliver shovel-ready road upgrade projects and smaller works across the state-controlled road network to improve network resilience, safety, accessibility and flood immunity. This initiative is estimated to support 700 direct jobs over the life of the two-year program.

Projects to receive new funding in the Burdekin Electorate as part of this roads stimulus package include:

- \$15 million for two timber bridge replacements on Blue Mountain Road — Scrubby Creek and Hut Creek
- \$10.2 million for extending the bitumen seal on Bowen Developmental Road between Collinsville and Belyando Crossing
- \$6 million for progressive sealing on Clermont–Alpha Road.

As per the Member's question, the two progressive sealing projects above represent 16 per cent of the \$100 million progressive sealing package.