

Question on Notice

No. 214

Asked on Wednesday 27 February 2019

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise (a) the options being considered to ensure the Bruce Highway is not closed during future rain or flooding events in the Burdekin district and (b) what actions are needed to ensure this issue is addressed as soon as possible?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Burdekin for the question.

The Bruce Highway is part of the National Land Transport Network and vital for the movement of thousands of freight and passenger vehicles each day. In partnership with the Australian Government, the Palaszczuk Government is investing \$11.8 billion under the Bruce Highway Upgrade Program to improve flood mitigation for areas prone to severe weather, in addition to improving safety and capacity along the Bruce Highway.

I am pleased to say there is ongoing investment in the Bruce Highway within the Burdekin shire to improve safety and flood immunity. Work will begin later this year on the \$514.3 million Haughton River Floodplain project to upgrade 13.5 kilometres of the Bruce Highway. The project is funded under the Bruce Highway Upgrade Program. Works will include replacing the Horseshoe Lagoon, Pink Lily and Haughton River bridges with new, wider, higher-level bridges, and new bridges will be built at Healey Lagoon and the Reed Beds.

I look forward to seeing this project commence after little was achieved to improve flood immunity in the Burdekin shire under the previous LNP Newman Government, which cut more than \$600 million from road and transport funding during its term.

The Plantation Creek crossing has also been identified as a location requiring future upgrading to address flooding issues.