

Question on Notice

No. 752

Asked on 15 June 2021

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Minister's previous advice that hydrology and hydraulic investigations were being undertaken at Plantation Creek on the Bruce Highway just south of Ayr with regards to helping to address flooding issues—

Will the Minister advise (a) if those investigations are complete, (b) if not, when will the investigations be completed and (c) if the investigations are complete, advise on the findings?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Burdekin for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government understands the importance of a flood resilient Bruce Highway, and the impact that ongoing closures have on the movement of people and freight. That is why we have committed \$48 million under the record \$27.5 billion *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2021–22 to 2024–25* to undertake planning for the Bruce Highway Burdekin deviation plan and preserve corridor project.

As I committed when the Member asked about Plantation Creek in early 2020, the Department of Transport and Main Roads is well advanced in updating the hydraulic model for the entire area, which the Burdekin deviation project relates to. This model relates not only to Plantation Creek in Ayr, but all the Burdekin River floodplain which affects the Bruce Highway, including from south of Home Hill, through Ayr and to just north of Brandon. This extensive work is to build a new hydraulic model of the floodplain across this 24-kilometre section, to replace an outdated model which was more than 20 years old.

Hydraulic modelling now uses much more sophisticated and complex tools to collect, analyse and manage flood information. Since the old model was developed, there have been significant advances in the computer technology used to build hydraulic models. This new hydraulic model will be an important part of long-term planning for the Burdekin deviation project, which will also include widespread community consultation and extensive technical investigations.

As I am sure the Member can appreciate, this is a complex and sensitive issue which must be carefully planned in consultation with the community and road users which the project will affect. Therefore, the Queensland Government needs to have the most up-to-date hydraulic model to carry out hydraulic investigations over the next 18-months.