

Question on Notice

No. 117

Asked on Thursday 6 February 2020

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Federal Government having committed funds for the installation of overtaking lanes between Home Hill and Ayr—

Will the Minister advise when the current state government will undertake this work and why road users in North Queensland must wait for safer roads?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Burdekin for the question.

The Queensland Government is committed to improving safety, flood resilience and capacity on the Bruce Highway between Brisbane and Cairns. That is why the Queensland Government is working with the Australian Government to deliver the record \$12.6 billion, 15-year Bruce Highway Upgrade Program.

The 12-kilometre section of the Bruce Highway between Ayr and Home Hill currently has both a northbound and southbound overtaking lane. There is currently no Australian Government funding allocated to provide additional overtaking lane projects on the Bruce Highway between Home Hill and Ayr within the *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2019–20 to 2022–23*.

However, I am pleased to advise the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is currently undertaking planning and design for eight new overtaking lanes on the Bruce Highway between Bowen and Home Hill.

Planned overtaking lanes at West Euri Road (northbound and southbound), Plain Creek (northbound), Armstrong Creek (northbound and southbound) and Arrow Creek (northbound and southbound) are now in the design phase. A further overtaking lane, just south of Home Hill between Old Bowen Road and Wallace Road, is currently in the planning phase and will move into design later this year.

There are many steps involved in the design phase for these projects, including surveys, geotechnical assessments and design of the new roadway in consideration of geometry, drainage, public utility services and impacts to properties, along with safety assessments. This process can take over 12 months, depending on the factors associated with the individual projects. Following the design process, these overtaking lane projects will progress through a procurement phase with construction expected to start in 2021.

Given the steps involved with design and procurement, there are limited opportunities to expedite works. However, TMR is working as quickly as possible to ensure all projects are delivered on time.