

Question on Notice
Transport and Resources Committee
Questions arising from Departmental Briefings

Asked on 28 March 2022

The Transport and Resources Committee asked the Department of Transport and Main Roads
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QUESTION:

Could the Department of Transport and Main Roads provide more information about the progress of road works between Springsure and Tambo?

ANSWER:

The Dawson Developmental Road (Springsure – Tambo) is a key link within Central Queensland and has a total length of 245.46 kilometres, traversing both the Central Highlands Regional Council (CHRC) area (171 kilometres) and Blackall-Tambo Regional Council (BTRC) area (74 kilometres). More than 130 kilometres of the road is unsealed, of which about 100 kilometres is in the CHRC area.

The \$7 million project to replace the existing Barcoo River Bridge, situated on the Dawson Developmental Road (Springsure – Tambo) immediately outside of Tambo, with a wider, higher, modern concrete structure is nearing completion (ID:1490815).

The project is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments on an 80:20 basis (\$5.6 million Australian Government; \$1.4 million Queensland Government) through the Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) initiative. The new bridge will improve access at this location for higher capacity vehicles, increase flood immunity and support safer and more reliable connectivity between communities.

Construction commenced in March 2021, with the roadworks component of the project being undertaken by BTRC and specialist bridge construction being undertaken by RoadTek.

Project delivery has been impacted by heavy rainfall and flooding which occurred in late 2021 and into March 2022. The bridge has now been completed by RoadTek and the remaining approach works and channel inlet / outlet works are expected to be finalised by mid-2022.

A further \$50 million ROSI investment in the Dawson Developmental Road (Springsure – Tambo), jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments on an 80:20 basis, will significantly improve access for local traffic and the cattle industry.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has worked closely with CHRC to develop a delivery strategy for this investment, targeting jointly agreed priorities.

As part of this investment, the detailed design is currently underway for a \$5 million project (\$4 million Australian Government; \$1 million Queensland Government) (ID: 1509578) to seal almost five kilometres of road from the end of the existing seal, about 50 kilometres south-west of Springsure (at Nandowrie), to 1.5-kilometres west of Coranderk Road. Construction is expected to commence later this year (2022).

TMR has also submitted a Project Proposal Report (PPR) to the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications for a project value of \$25.54 million on an 80:20 basis (\$20.43 million Australian Government; \$5.11 million Queensland Government) for the scoping, development and delivery phase of a project to deliver priority upgrades along this road.

The scope of the PPR includes \$2 million for TMR to lead planning and preconstruction activities to determine the remaining scope of work to be included in a future PPR Addendum to seek the total balance (\$19.46 million – 80:20 Australian and Queensland Government) of funding from the \$50 million ROSI commitment.

While these latest projects progress, TMR will continue to monitor the condition of the Dawson Developmental Road (Springsure – Tambo) and undertake maintenance where required to ensure the safety of all road users.

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QUESTION:

Could the Department of Transport and Main Roads provide more information about the road rules applicable when using a mobile phone while driving, specifically in relation to touching the phone while driving?

ANSWER:

Under section 300 of the *Transport Operations (Road Use Management – Road Rules Regulation) 2009*, the driver of a vehicle must not use a mobile phone while the vehicle is moving or is stationary but not parked. Under this section, 'using a mobile phone' includes holding the phone in the driver's hand or resting the phone on any part of their body, such as their lap. This applies even when stopped at traffic lights. The phone does not need to be turned on or in use for it to be an offence.

Open and P2 licence holders are allowed hands-free use of a mobile phone, for example, in a cradle attached to the vehicle. This can include accepting calls, using navigation apps, skipping a song, or accepting/finishing a trip as a rideshare driver. However, the position of the mobile phone must not obscure the driver's view of the road.

Open and P2 licence holders can also use a mobile phone hands-free if it's in a pocket of their clothing or a pouch they're wearing. However, they must not touch or look at the phone. It can only be operated using their voice.

Additional mobile phone restrictions apply to learner and P1 provisional licence holders under 25 years. These novice drivers cannot use a mobile phone in any way while driving. This includes using hands-free kits, Bluetooth® or loudspeaker functions. If a phone is in a pocket of their clothing or a pouch they're wearing, they must not use it in any way. This includes touching it, looking at it or operating it with their voice. In addition, passengers of learner and P1 provisional drivers cannot use a mobile phone on loudspeaker while the novice driver is driving.

All drivers can use their phone when safely and legally parked or when stopped to:

- pay for goods and services, for example at a drive through;
- gain access to or from a road-related area, such as a car park;
- present a digital driver licence or other document to police when asked; or
- get a card or money out of a phone wallet for the above purposes.

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QUESTION:

Could the Department of Transport and Main Roads provide more information about the trial sites for zero emission buses?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government has made a commitment that from 2025 all new urban buses in South East Queensland will be zero emission buses, and for regional Queensland, implementation will begin between 2025-2030.

In line with this commitment, the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has commenced rolling out electric buses across the Translink public transport network.

Since April 2021, Transdev has been operating its BYD/Volgren battery electric bus across all its routes in the Redland Bay/Capalaba area. Also, Logan Coaches have been operating two BYD/Gemilang battery electric buses on route 587, which services the Yarrabilba community.

During 2022, TMR expects to roll out another 48 zero emission buses across the Translink network as follows:

- Clarks Logan City Bus Service has approval for 10 BusTech battery electric buses to operate from its Loganlea depot. The buses are currently being built by BusTech on the Gold Coast.
- Hornibrook Bus Lines has approval for 16 BusTech battery electric buses to operate out of the North Lakes depot. The North Lakes depot will be exclusively used by battery electric buses. The buses will be built by BusTech on the Gold Coast.
- Sunbus Sunshine Coast and Cairns have approval to operate 10 battery electric buses across, Sunshine Coast and Cairns. The works at each of the depots are nearing completion with the buses expected to go into operation over the next four to eight weeks. The electric buses have been manufactured by Yutong and are undergoing final fit out at Yutong's facility at Virginia before testing will commence.
- Surfside Bus Lines has approval for 10 BYD/Volgren battery electric buses to be built at Eagle Farm. The buses will operate exclusively on the 777 Gold Coast airport route. The buses will be housed at the newly created Currumbin depot.

- Mackay Transit Coaches will trial two bio-ethanol fuelled buses on its urban network in Mackay. The bio-ethanol will be produced locally in Sarina. The buses are currently being built by BusTech on a Scania chassis.

Table 1: ZEB distribution

Delivery Partner	Chassis/Body	No. of buses	Inservice date	Service area
Logan Coaches	BYD/Gemilang	2	April 2021	Yarrabilba
Transdev	BYD/Volgren	1	April 2021	Redland Bay
Clarks	BusTech/BusTech	10	From June 2022	Logan
Hornibrook	BusTech/BusTech	16	From September 2022	North Brisbane
Surfside	BYD/BusTech	10	August 2022	Gold Coast airport
Sunbus Sunshine Coast	Yutong	5	May 2022	Sunshine Coast
Sunbus Cairns	Yutong	5	June 2022	Cairns
Mackay Transit	Scania/BusTech (bio-ethanol)	2	May 2022	Mackay