




Speech By
Shane King

MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH

Record of Proceedings, 14 February 2019

TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (3.33 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Transport and Public Works Committee report No. 14 titled *Review of Auditor-General's report No. 4 for 2017-18—Integrated transport planning* tabled on 14 November 2018.

We had a look at this Auditor-General's report. It is a pretty dry argument. We considered the issues involved. Those issues included: implementation of the 13 audit recommendations; the transport coordination plan and regional transport plans; funding to renew the transport network; the impact of severe weather events; exposure to silicates; managing growth on the transport network; and public transport usage. We made only one recommendation. That was that the report be noted. I would like to thank the hardworking members of our secretariat and my fellow committee members for their work on this report.

We had two briefings—a private briefing with the Auditor-General and officers from the Queensland Audit Office and a public briefing with representatives from the Department of Transport and Main Roads. Overall, we are satisfied that the Department of Transport and Main Roads is progressing with the implementation of the 13 recommendations, albeit at a slower pace than initially anticipated. I will talk about that in a second. Our committee will continue to monitor the implementation of the audit recommendations. Some of them are complete and all are underway.

While the Director-General of the Department of Transport and Main Roads acknowledged the report's conclusion that the department has been effective in developing the integrated planning framework, he noted his disappointment that the report, in his opinion, did not fully reflect the breadth and depth of DTMR's activities to plan for and invest in the transport network. He went on further to say—

Further, the report gives limited attention to the severe weather events, such as tropical storms and cyclones, which regularly disrupt the transport network across Queensland. In addition to their impact on customers, these events require TMR to deliver significant and urgent repair and reconstruction projects within available funding.

That is what I wanted to talk about. With the unprecedented events in Townsville and Western Queensland, I agree that the urgency is the repair of roads. Whilst maintenance is still being done we have to repair the damaged roads. I can sympathise with his statement. As at 30 June 2018 Queensland had 33,367 kilometres of roads. It is a lot to maintain and upgrade. When we have significant events like we are having at the moment, I can understand his comment.

While the committee is satisfied that the department is completing the recommendations, we understand that there is a timing issue. We will continue to monitor them.