

Question on Notice

No. 1310

Asked on 26 October 2021

MS B LAUGA ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide an update on active transport in Central Queensland and how the Palaszczuk Government is promoting a more active lifestyle for Central Queenslanders?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Keppel for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to getting more people cycling and walking for all types of journeys, all across the State—including in Central Queensland.

The Palaszczuk Government wants to see more people leave their cars at home and take up cycling as an active, safe and healthy form of transport. Since 2015, the Palaszczuk Government has invested over \$308 million in bike riding infrastructure, planning and programs, as well as into walking initiatives across the state.

Central Queensland residents are benefiting from an investment of almost \$35 million for active transport since 2015, including:

- \$16 million in grant funding to local governments to support the delivery of 68 bike riding projects in the region such as:
 - Stages 1–2 of the Alpha, Aramac and Barcaldine networks with Barcaldine Regional Council
 - Capricorn Street separated cycle track with Isaac Regional Council
 - Kemp Beach shared path with Livingstone Shire Council
 - North Street bike lanes with Rockhampton Regional Council
 - Pioneer North Back shared path with Mackay Regional Council
- nearly \$18 million for projects on the State network including on and off-road facilities along sections of the Bruce Highway in Rockhampton, Dawson Highway in Biloela, and shared paths across Mackay including Mackay–Slade Point Road and Blue Water Trail to Cross City link
- \$1 million in grant funding to local governments for planning rail trails for the Yeppoon pineapple trail, Boyne Burnett inland trail, Mount Morgan trail, Barcoo Way rail trail and Aramac to Barcaldine trail.

Looking ahead, the *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2021–22 to 2024–25* (QTRIP) is the sixth record transport and roads infrastructure program in a row, outlining \$27.5 billion in investment over the next four years and estimated to support an average of 24,000 direct jobs over the life of the program. This record investment includes \$252 million for bike riding infrastructure which prioritises infrastructure that physically separates bike riders from motor vehicles, planning and programs, and walking initiatives to encourage more people to ride bikes and walk more often.

Some key projects for Central Queensland included in the new QTRIP are:

- Western Yeppoon–Emu Park Road, Taranganba Road to Yeppoon Road, upgrade cycling facilities in Yeppoon

- Tannum Sands Road, shared path construction in Gladstone
- Blue Water Trail–Cross City Link shared path in Mackay.

With the pandemic impacting Queensland businesses and communities, significant road upgrades will be delivered to help stimulate the economy as part of *Queensland's COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan*. These upgrades provide immediate economic benefits, support more jobs and deliver ongoing benefits of vital infrastructure for years to come.

This also has an active transport benefit because road upgrades which are on the principal cycle network also deliver cycling infrastructure. This infrastructure is being well used. The latest *National Walking and Cycling Participation Survey 2021* results for Queensland show an increase in the proportion of residents riding in a typical week—up from 13.5 per cent in 2019 to 19.2 per cent in 2021.

The Palaszczuk Government will continue to invest in active transport in Central Queensland, guided by the priority route maps for the Central Queensland Principal Cycle Network Plan, which were recently updated by the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) in partnership with local governments.

The Palaszczuk Government has also established a new statewide grant program for local governments to assist in developing plans to improve walking environments. Whether on foot, moving with the help of a mobility device like a wheelchair, or pushing a child in a pram, walking is also an important part of life for everyone.

The new Walking Local Government Grants are initially targeted at developing walking network plans and priority works programs around primary destinations such as public transport, schools and town centres.

Gladstone Regional Council (GRC) in Central Queensland Region was one of three local governments that very ably assisted in piloting the new Walking Network Planning guidance in 2020–21. GRC has now constructed a shared path along Tank Street, from Central Lane to Glenlyon Road and other walking improvements in central Gladstone with a \$150,000 grant from TMR.

The Palaszczuk Government is proud to be providing the people of Central Queensland with more options to walk and ride bikes and enjoy the many health and economic benefits this brings.