

Question on Notice

No. 401

Asked on 17 April 2024

MS F SIMPSON ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS AND MINISTER FOR DIGITAL SERVICES (HON B MELLISH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the 2022 Infrastructure Australia's evaluation report on the Mooloolah River Interchange (MRI) project which said this area had a 'high risk' crash rating and that congestion and safety related issues were valued at \$76m per annum (in 2022) and without intervention were anticipated to grow to \$220m by 2031 and \$401m by 2041—

Will the Minister advise, in light of the State Government's cancellation of the project after the Federal Government withdrew their funding contribution on the basis of cost blowouts (a) what is being done to address the cost of safety and congestion identified in this report at this location and (b) when will this occur?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Maroochydore for the question.

As previously advised in answer to Question on Notice 306 tabled on 19 April 2024, the Sunshine Motorway, Mooloolah River Interchange Upgrade project remains a priority for the Queensland Government and design work is progressing.

- (a) In response to the Australian Government's withdrawal of funding, the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is actively undertaking assessments to identify viable solutions and alternative funding strategies to address the safety and congestion concerns highlighted at this location. The aim is to develop a responsive plan that aligns with the financial constraints while retaining the core objectives of the project.
- (b) These assessments are instrumental in shaping future actions and will inform the timeframe for addressing the identified issues. TMR is dedicated to managing these developments and will provide updates on the progression and scheduling of solutions as more information becomes available and the assessments conclude.

The Miles Government is delivering its eighth record transport and roads infrastructure program in a row, as detailed in the *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2023–24 to 2026–27*, which outlines \$32.1 billion in investment over the next four years and is estimated to support an average of 25,200 direct jobs over the life of the program. Of this, \$3.147 billion is committed across TMR's North Coast Region, estimated to support an average of 2460 direct jobs over the life of the program.