

Question on Notice

No. 472

Asked on 30 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 cancellation of funding for the Mooloolah River Interchange (MRI) project, which included new Mooloolah River crossings—

Will the Minister advise what impact this has upon the \$15m Sunshine Coast Public Transport Project Business Case investigating public transport options to link the hospital at Birtinya to Maroochydore CBD?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Maroochydore for the question.

As previously advised in my answers to Questions on Notice 205, 306 and 401—tabled on 8 April 2024, 19 April 2024 and 17 May 2024 respectively—the Sunshine Motorway, Mooloolah River Interchange (MRI) Upgrade project remains a priority for the Queensland Government and design work is progressing.

Following the Australian Government's decision to withdraw its share of the committed funding, the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is unable to deliver the project at this time. However, TMR is investigating impacts, alternatives and funding options. Close collaboration with interfacing projects, such as Sunshine Coast Public Transport (SCPT) and Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line, is also being undertaken to ensure the projects align with the broader multi-modal network solution desired by the community.

As part of this, improving public transport on the Sunshine Coast is a key focus for the Queensland Government and will help ease congestion and improve the efficiency of the broader transport network.

TMR is working through the detailed business case for an integrated urban public transport solution which builds on work completed by Sunshine Coast Regional Council. The change relating to funding for the MRI upgrade does not impact the delivery of the detailed business case for the SCPT project.

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.