

Question on Notice

No. 694

Asked on 23 May 2024

MR D CRISAFULLI ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS AND MINISTER FOR DIGITAL SERVICES (HON B MELLISH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the recently announced \$864m cost increase of the Coomera Connector project—

Will the Minister provide a breakdown of (a) the cost increase (reported separately by project package (north, central and south)) and (b) the increase (reported separately by cost input (i.e. land, labour, material costs, environmental offsets, and any other significant input cost))?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Broadwater for the question.

The Queensland Government is delivering its ninth record transport and roads infrastructure program in a row, as detailed in the *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2024–25 to 2027–28*, which outlines \$37.4 billion in investment over the next four years and is estimated to support an average of 28,000 direct jobs over the life of the program. Of this, \$5.458 billion is committed across the Department of Transport and Main Roads' (TMR) South Coast Region, estimated to support an average of 3930 direct jobs over the life of the program.

Several elements of the cost information requested by the Member are Commercial-in-Confidence and unable to be provided.

I am, however, able to inform the Member, following TMR advice, that the additional cost is the result of a range of factors and that the most significant increase can be attributed to double-digit market escalation and inflation, since the business case was approved in 2021. I am advised this escalation, combined with the realisation of risks—such as contaminated soils—make up more than 50 per cent of the increase. I trust the Member would understand that infrastructure projects in Australia and around the world are facing cost pressures and the Coomera Connector is not immune to a number of external market challenges.

I am advised that new noise barrier requirements, due to emerging development applications; additional costs realised for the Nerang River Bridge structure; and impacts from environmental approvals and the conditions set, have also impacted the cost of the project.

The Coomera Connector will deliver a range of benefits such as improved reliability of travel times, reduced pressure on the M1, improved network efficiency and reduced congestion and queuing at interchanges.