

QUESTION ON NOTICE

NO. 143

Asked on Thursday 22 April 2004

MR REEVES asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Mr Lucas) -

QUESTION:

With reference to the federal Government Brisbane Urban Corridor which is part of the national Highway and the study conducted in 2003: will he outline the status of the study and, in particular, the recommendations of a 12 month night trial for trucks using the Logan Motorway?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Mansfield for the question.

Last year, the Department of Main Roads completed the Brisbane Urban Corridor (BUC) Study and released the draft final BUC Report in June 2003 for public comment.

The purpose of the study was to examine traffic and its impacts along Granard, Riawena, Kessels and Mt Gravatt-Capalaba Roads. As you know, these roads form part of the National Highway System (NHS), for which full funding responsibility resides with the federal government.

The final study report recommended a total package of 55 actions aimed at reducing truck traffic, improving safety, improving residential amenity, reducing congestion at major intersections, increasing enforcement and promoting land use change.

In December last year, the state government forwarded the final BUC Planning Study Report with a submission to the federal government seeking funding to undertake a number of the BUC study recommendations. This included funding to undertake a 12-month trial allowing tolls for trucks to be subsidised between 10.00pm and 5.00am on the Logan Motorway and Gateway Extension.

The funding for this 12-month trial is required to reimburse Queensland Motorways Limited (QML), the tollway operator, for lost toll revenue. Main Roads has also asked QML to consider the financial implications, and how the trial might be implemented and administered.

The state government has been actively trying to secure funding from the federal government to implement this trial, as well as to make a start on the other 20 BUC Study recommendations which are within the federal government's funding jurisdiction. Unfortunately, very few, and only long-standing federal funding commitments for Queensland's NHS were funded in the recent federal budget – and BUC study recommendations, which would address the serious traffic congestion, safety and local amenity issues in this nationally-significant road corridor, were once again ignored by the federal government.

The Auslink announcement on 7 June 2004 offers the opportunity for the federal government to meet its responsibility and fund the \$200m worth of works on the Brisbane Urban Corridor to improve the amenity and lifestyle of its residents.