

QUESTION ON NOTICE

NO. 198

Asked on Tuesday 27 April 2004

MS NOLAN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Mr Lucas) -

QUESTION:

Will he provide a timeframe for consultation and construction of the Centenary Highway extension from Springfield to Ripley?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Ipswich for the question.

In 2001, the Department of Main Roads commenced a four-stage planning study for the South West Transport Corridor (Centenary Highway extension), between Springfield and Ipswich-Boonah Road, and connecting with the Cunningham Highway.

The first stage, a needs assessment, confirmed the need to preserve such a corridor for future transport purposes.

Officers of other state government agencies and Ipswich City Council have been consulted and involved in all stages of the study through their membership of a Project Reference Group. The local communities and special interest groups, situated in the study area, have been represented on a Community Reference Group. These groups have met at least once during each stage of the study.

The last stage of the study is now well advanced. It will produce a recommended route for the South West Transport Corridor, connecting with the Cunningham Highway. The study is expected to be completed by August 2004, following which a final newsletter will be sent to all landowners and residents in the study area.

Importantly, as part of its election platform, the Beattie Labor government committed an extra \$120m over four years to construct stage 1 of the Centenary Highway extension to Ripley Road. At the time, Premier Peter Beattie announced that construction of these stage 1 works would commence within two years. Consistent with the Premier's commitment, Main Roads is arranging for the design phases of the highway to commence immediately following completion of the current planning study. Consultation with all stakeholders will continue during this process.