

Question on Notice

No. 661

Asked on 16 June 2004

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

With reference to the Federal Government's AusLink funding program -

Has the Federal Government allocated the \$25 million required to match the State Government commitment of \$25 million, to fund the much needed grade separation of the rail crossing at Beaudesert Road, Acacia Ridge?

ANSWER:

I would like to thank Ms Struthers for her question, and her continued interest in the pressing traffic problems at the level crossing at Beaudesert Road, Acacia Ridge. Sadly, I have to report that there has been an appalling lack of funding allocated to the Queensland rail network under the Federal Government's AusLink program.

Queensland's share of the \$11.8 billion AusLink funds allocated nationally was only \$1.46 billion over 5 years (8.08% of total funding). Queensland was allocated rail funding of only \$7 million for centralised train control upgrades on the standard gauge line from the border to Acacia Ridge. This is around half of one percent of the total AusLink rail funding which is a slap in the face for Queensland given that the state has 20 percent of the nation's rail network.

Despite the Queensland Government being very up-front in its commitment of \$25 million for the Acacia Ridge crossing, the Commonwealth has not seen its way clear to put up its matching \$25 million, despite assurances I had received to the contrary from my Federal counterpart.

However, I intend to continue to press the Commonwealth for a better AusLink funding deal in further bilateral negotiations on this and other projects.