

Question on Notice

No. 295

Asked on 11 April 2005

MR MULHERIN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (MR LUCAS) –

QUESTION:

With reference to a recent meeting of the reconvened MAITS Steering committee following the Mackay City Council's request for the Department of Transport and Department of Main Roads to reassess the east-west connector road – Will he advise what progress has occurred as a result of this meeting?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Mackay for the question.

The reformed Mackay Area Integrated Transport Study Steering Committee met on 11 February 2005. Representatives from Main Roads, Queensland Transport, Mackay City Council and Mackay Port Authority form the committee.

The MAITS Steering Committee recommended the establishment of a technical committee to advise them on technical issues that may arise. The technical committee will include representatives from Main Roads, Pioneer River Improvement Trust, Mackay City Council, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries and Mackay Port Authority. The technical committee will also include an environmental expert to provide advice on environmental issues.

On 24 March 2005, the Environmental Protection Agency provided a shortlist of suitable candidates for the Steering Committee's consideration. The first meeting for the technical committee will be held in mid-April.

The Steering Committee is currently undertaking a review of the previously identified viable options including:

- the Malcomson Street upgrade
- a joint levee road based on the original East-West Connector proposal
- a joint levee road with minor variations to the original East-West Connector proposal

Main Roads is currently preparing a community engagement plan for the MAITS Steering Committee's endorsement. I am expecting the community engagement process to commence in the new financial year.