

**Question on Notice**

**No. 609**

**Asked on 10 May 2005**

MR FINN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (MR LUCAS) -

**QUESTION:**

How will projects announced in the government's infrastructure plan benefit residents in the electorate of Yeerongpilly?

**ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for Yeerongpilly for the question.

The South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan and Program 2005-2026 will greatly benefit residents of the electorate of Yeerongpilly.

Firstly, let me say there has been unprecedented growth in South East Queensland in recent years. This trend is set to continue.

The Queensland Government has responded to this challenge by publishing the Infrastructure Plan and Program for South East Queensland. The government has identified the infrastructure that will be required over the next 20 years.

For much of it, the financial responsibility for delivery rests with the state. This government has made a ten-year commitment to fund the necessary infrastructure that supports growth in South East Queensland.

However, some of the infrastructure is the responsibility of the federal government and it has made no such funding commitment. The plan also shows the state government's intentions regarding infrastructure planning over the next 20 years.

Let me now list those parts of the plan that will directly benefit residents in the electorate of Yeerongpilly.

- The vitally important Ipswich Motorway has been identified for urgent upgrading. This would directly benefit Yeerongpilly constituents by providing reliable and safe travel to and from the western parts of the electorate. As you know, the Ipswich Motorway is a national highway and the funding responsibility for any upgrade rests with the federal government. The feasibility study into the so-called Half Northern Bypass Option by independent consultant Maunsell Australia Pty Limited has been completed. Maunsell also completed an independent review of the Ipswich Motorway Upgrade Project. The reports by Maunsell show that a 19km upgrade of the existing motorway from Dinmore to Rocklea can be completed in about half the time and at the same cost as any 9km northern bypass between Dinmore and Goodna.

The upgrade of the existing motorway offers a fully integrated transport solution with service roads and is the state government's preferred solution for the motorway.

The federal government now has all the information to make an informed decision on the Ipswich Motorway and I look forward to the commonwealth funding to ease the traffic congestion experienced by the long suffering motorists using the motorway.

- Planned improvements to the Brisbane Urban Corridor will enhance the reliability and safety of freight movements through the electorate. Again, this is a national highway and the funding responsibility rests with the federal government. So far, that government has approved some improvements in the road infrastructure. Members would also likely be aware of the trial on the Logan Motorway to allow trucks to use the motorway late at night at no charge. This initiative is designed to remove some freight movements through the electorate. The trial will reveal the extent of the improvement.
- While the federal government has not given any financial commitment to these projects, in sharp contrast, the Queensland government has committed funds to the projects that are its responsibilities. Of particular relevance to the Yeerongpilly electorate is the \$184m Salisbury to Kuraby third rail track / Ormeau to Coomera second rail track upgrade. Given other rail track projects upgrading capacity projects announced on the Brisbane to Gold Coast corridor, it is essential to provide additional track capacity for extra services to cater for ongoing patronage growth in this rail corridor. Part of the Salisbury to Kuraby third track upgrade is in your electorate.
- The good news for local commuters in the Yeerongpilly electorate is that Coopers Plains station, and on the boundary of the electorate, Banoon Station, are two of the six stations to be upgraded and modernised as part of this project. These upgrades will include new railway platforms, new passenger set-down zones, upgraded station lighting and bicycle lockers. Construction of this project will begin in earnest in mid-2006, and be completed by February 2008.

There are several parts of the plan which will have a "ripple effect" that will benefit road users in the Yeerongpilly electorate.

- The Gateway Motorway upgrade, at a cost of some \$1.6b, includes widening of key parts of the motorway and duplication of the Gateway Bridge. It will be opened to traffic in stages and will be completed by 2011. It will attract some commuters away from the electorate and so improve traffic flow and safety in the area.
- Similarly, two additional bus priority and transit lanes will be built along the Centenary Highway, between the Ipswich Motorway and Toowong cemetery, at an estimated cost of \$250m. When the lanes are built the works will attract some commuters away from the electorate and improve traffic flow and safety in the area.

Collectively, these things all add up to very good news for the constituents of the Yeerongpilly electorate.