

Question on Notice

No. 714

Asked on 12 May 2005

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

QUESTION:

With reference to statements by Ministers of the Federal Government that the long term transport needs of the western suburbs will be well served by a comprehensive investigation—

Was this rhetoric matched by any funding commitment in the Federal Budget?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Mt Coot-tha for his question.

The short story is that 2005 Federal Budget has short-changed Queensland. We got nothing!

By way of background, the draft South East Queensland Regional Plan has recommended extensive infrastructure planning to support significant population and employment growth in western Brisbane. The plan recognises that priority should be given to planning transport networks in western Brisbane, including the investigation of a bypass.

The state government has provided \$5m towards a Western Brisbane Transport Network Investigation (WBTNI), including consideration of the need for a western Brisbane bypass.

The study will commence in 2005-06 and will take around three years to complete. The first task will be to conduct traffic studies across western Brisbane's arterial road network. An assessment of traffic needs will provide firm data on whether or not a bypass is needed. The investigation will also consider a range of transport solutions and involve extensive community engagement. Your continued involvement in the community consultation process is welcomed.

I must stress that no western bypass route has been chosen. The Honourable Peter Beattie MP, Premier and Minister for Trade, made this clear in the announcement of 15 November 2004. The Premier and I have requested elected representatives and vested interests not to draw lines on a map showing where a bypass may or may not be. If a bypass is needed, the route will be chosen only after extensive consultation and careful consideration of all the impacts and benefits.

While the former federal roads minister, Senator Ian Campbell, stated publicly that he supported this study, he did not match the rhetoric with any money. He confirmed his commitment in May last year to doing a feasibility study into a bypass. The Courier-Mail reported on 29 May 2004 "Senator Campbell said he believed a western bypass would be essential within the next two decades, principally to provide interstate trucks an alternative to travelling along the Ipswich, Logan and Gateway Motorways". I have repeatedly raised the need for funds of the study with both Ministers Anderson and Lloyd. Further, the federal government has not committed nor will commit any funds for public transport in this budget.

As I have done so in the past, I will continue to raise this matter with the federal government.