

Question on Notice

No. 727

Asked on 12 May 2005

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the survey conducted by the Department of Main Roads in relation to the Ningi Bypass proposal-

- (1) Why does the survey document advise that there will be no ongoing maintenance of the existing main road through Ningi if a bypass solution is preferred, given a bypass road would be some years away?
- (2) Why was the major Main Roads Department-Cardno study report not referred to in the survey given the extensive research done as part of the project and its key relevance?
- (3) Why was the decision of August 2002 made not to bypass the Ningi township before this Main Roads-Cardno Study was even completed?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Maroochydore for the question.

Before I address the question, there are a number of points that you need to understand about the Ningi Planning Study.

Bribie Island Road was constructed in 1962 as a two-lane road on a 40m wide road reserve.

In the late 1980s, Main Roads reviewed the planning for Bribie Island Road in consultation with key stakeholders. The review confirmed the need for a limited-access, high-speed rural road from the Bruce Highway to Ningi. It also confirmed that upgrading the existing road through Ningi was an appropriate solution to meet future traffic demands.

At a council meeting in December 1991, Caboolture Shire Council agreed to the planning layout for the road including four lanes through Ningi.

In 1997, in response to a petition from the Ningi District Community Association, the then Minister for Transport and Main Roads authorised a planning study to look at bypass options for Ningi.

It was made clear that road-building funds in the foreseeable future were limited; the study would investigate strategic solutions to determine the ultimate form of the road network for planning purposes.

The study investigations were carried out in 2000-2001 and considered a number of bypass options with varying economic, social and environmental costs attached.

The study was met by a mixed response from the community and Caboolture Shire Council. There were numerous submissions, both for and against a bypass.

The then Minister for Transport and Main Roads decided not to adopt a bypass option and instead confirmed the original plans to upgrade the existing road through Ningi.

Since then, further representations have been made by the community and the council has reconsidered its position. More than 150 people have written to me expressing their views for and against a bypass.

I decided to conduct a survey of the wider community to gather information on the issues and how those issues may best be resolved in a balanced and affordable way.

Now, the answers to your questions are as follows.

- (1) It doesn't. The survey document states that "a bypass does not lend itself to staging and would have to be built and funded as one project. In that time, the existing road would need some works to maintain safety".
- (2) The study was referred to in the survey document. The section "History of proposed planning" states that "Some years later, in response to representation by some Ningi residents, the then Minister for Transport and Main Roads authorised a planning study to look at bypass options for Ningi" and "The study was done in 2000-2001 and was met by a mixed response from the community and the Caboolture Shire Council".

Additionally, information contained in a table comparing three different options was obtained from the study.

- (3) The final consultation phase drew a mixed response from the community and Caboolture Shire Council. There were numerous submissions to Main Roads, both for and against a bypass. Prior to finalising the study report, Main Roads sought a ministerial decision as to which option should be adopted. Main Roads made a recommendation to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, based on the study findings and the results of the consultation phase, and this recommendation was adopted by the then Minister.