

Question on Notice

No. 1047

Asked on 8 June 2006

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

QUESTION:

With reference to my previous requests on behalf of the Maroochy North Shore Community and to the dangerous intersection of Menzies Drive/David Low Way and Mudjimba Beach Road near the Bi-Lo Shopping Centre at Pacific Paradise – Will he allocate funds to bring this planned upgrade forward?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Maroochydhore for the question. The honourable member should not give the impression that she is the only public figure who has made representations on this matter. I reiterate that the Beattie Government is committed to fast-tracking road upgrades, where feasible. Our record speaks for itself. In July 2005, I announced that construction of the new Maroochy River Bridge and approaches would be accelerated by 12 months, and integrated with the Pacific Paradise interchange project. This followed a commitment by Premier Peter Beattie at the Kawana Community Cabinet in May 2005. The combined cost of both projects is \$145m.

Construction has commenced with preloading embankments now in place. The new three-lane bridge will be completed in late 2007, with traffic switched onto it from the existing two-lane bridge, which will also be widened to three lanes. Traffic merging from the David Low Way onto the Sunshine Motorway will be able to use two south-bound lanes instead of one lane on the existing bridge.

All up, under the current five-year Roads Implementation Program (RIP), Main Roads will be spending \$223m on upgrading the Sunshine Motorway, including upgrading of the Sippy Downs and Maroochy Boulevard interchanges. Other projects – totalling around \$170m – that have been accelerated, include the Maroochydhore Road upgrade from the Bruce Highway to Pike Street, and four-laning of Caloundra Road from the Bruce Highway to Pierce Avenue.

The upgrading of the David Low Way/Menzies Drive and Mudjimba Beach Road intersection was included in the 2004-05 to 2008-09 RIP. It remains as programmed in the current 2005-06 to 2009-10 RIP, with an indicative forward allocation for construction in 2008-09. Preconstruction work on this project is progressing and is expected to be finalised by the end of 2006. I have consistently said that the ability to bring forward the construction of this project will be considered together with other priority projects in future reviews of the RIP.

For the 2006-07 financial year, funding for roadworks on the Sunshine Coast in Caloundra City, Maroochy and Noosa Shires will rise to a total of \$190m, compared with around \$50m ten years ago under the Borbidge Government in which the Honourable Member served.

The Beattie Government is very aware of the addressing the needs of the fast growing Sunshine Coast area. Just recently, I have visited the Sunshine Coast area to announce milestones on major road projects:

28 April 2006

Officially opened, with Mayor Bob Abbot, Eenie Creek Road and Walter Hay Drive. The State Government contributed more than \$70 million to the project.

Announced with Member for Kawana, Hon Chris Cummins the calling of tenders for work to widen the Sunshine Motorway between Sippy Downs Drive and Kawana Way to four lanes. Project cost is \$20 million.

24 May

Announced work to start on the \$27 million duplication of Maroochy River Bridge on the Sunshine Motorway and the \$60 million project to widen the final stretch of Maroochy Road to four lanes.

26 May

Jointly announced with Maroochy Shire Mayor Joe Natoli the awarding of the construction contract for the Maroochy Boulevard Interchange project on the Sunshine Motorway.