

Question on Notice

No. 1334

Asked on Thursday 30 October 2006

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

QUESTION:

Will he outline the Gateway Motorway upgrade and the progress of this project?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Springwood for the question.

In February 2005, I announced the Gateway Upgrade Project would proceed.

The project will be delivered by Queensland Motorways Limited through a design, construct and maintain contract with Leighton Abigroup Joint Venture at a cost of \$1.88bn. Despite the lack of federal funding, the Beattie government is proceeding with this vital infrastructure for Queensland. The Gateway Motorway is part of the AusLink network and, in the past, the Commonwealth Government has met the full cost of work on the motorway, other than the bridge, which is funded by tolls. Unfortunately, the federal government has provided only \$8m in assistance for the Gateway Upgrade Project, during the planning and development phase of the project. There is no further funding commitment from the Commonwealth.

The Gateway Upgrade Project involves upgrading 20km of the Gateway Motorway from Mt Gravatt-Capalaba Road to Nudgee Road (12km to the south of the Brisbane River and 8km to the north) and includes:

- Upgrading Wynnum Road at Tingalpa in the vicinity of the Gateway Motorway, between Stanton Road in the east and Graystone Street in the west. This upgrade is underway as a separate contract being constructed by Basic Construction Services.
- Widening the Gateway Motorway between Mt Gravatt-Capalaba Road and Wynnum Road from four lanes to six lanes.
- Widening the Gateway Motorway between Wynnum Road and Lytton Road from four lanes to eight lanes.
- Constructing a new Gateway Motorway Deviation from Kingsford Smith Drive to the Nudgee Road Interchange. The deviation provides for six lanes (through old and new airport sites) from Kingsford Smith Drive to the southern abutment of Kedron Brook with four lanes through to Nudgee (with the provision for a future six lanes on this section).
- Constructing a second northern access to Brisbane Airport from the new deviation
- Replacing the existing toll plaza with a high speed, free flow electronic toll collection system in the vicinity of the bridges

- Duplicating the six-lane Gateway Bridge approximately 50m downstream (eastern side) of the existing bridge.
- Providing a shared pedestrian and cycle facility on the new bridge.

The Gateway Upgrade Project will benefit Queensland by:

- reducing the growing traffic congestion along the Gateway Motorway and the Gateway Bridge
- meeting the demands of South East Queensland's growing population
- meeting the service demands which future development of Australia TradeCoast (which includes the Port of Brisbane and Brisbane Airport) will place on the corridor
- improving safety along this section of the Gateway Motorway
- providing a dedicated pedestrian and cycle facility on the duplicate bridge
- providing a much needed second access to the Brisbane Airport
- improving access to Port of Brisbane Motorway.

During the design and construction phases, the project has the potential to create more than 5,000 new jobs and in so doing generate an estimated \$450m in wages and salaries. It will also contribute to long-term job growth in the region.

Motorists will benefit from progressive openings of the project:

- Wynnum Road Upgrade (separate early works package)
 - Localised upgrade of the intersection on Wynnum Road at the motorway commenced August 2006 and is scheduled to be completed by mid 2007.
- Wynnum Road to Lytton Road - Widening to eight lanes.
 - Early works: Two additional southbound lanes to be opened from the Port of Brisbane Motorway to Wynnum Road off-ramp by late 2007.
- Gateway Motorway Deviation and Airport Interchange
 - Four lanes available for opening in early/mid 2009.
- Mt Gravatt–Capalaba Road to Wynnum Road - Widening to six lanes.
 - All lanes of this section opened by late 2009.
- New Second Gateway Bridge (and immediate approaches) will be completed by late 2010. The existing bridge will then be refurbished with completion by mid 2011.

After a detailed six month Tender evaluation period, Leighton Abigroup Joint Venture was announced as the contractor for the project by Premier Beattie on 18 September 2006.

The Project Deed was signed between Queensland Motorways Limited and Leighton Abigroup Joint Venture on 26 September 2006. Preliminary investigation works began on 1 November 2006 with detailed geotechnical surveys. Service relocations are expected to begin in December 2006 and construction will start in early 2007.