

Question on Notice

No. 1357

Asked on Wednesday, 1 November 2006

MRS ATTWOOD MP asked the Minister for Communities, Disability Services, Seniors and Youth (**MR PITT**) -

Will he highlight some future rural infrastructure projects under the Blueprint for the Bush?

ANSWER:

On 1 June 2006 at Charleville, the Blueprint for the Bush and the companion document, *Rural Economic Development and Infrastructure Plan*, were launched by the Queensland Government with AgForce Queensland and the Local Government Association of Queensland. The Blueprint for the Bush is a ten year plan to build a strong rural Queensland of sustainable, liveable and prosperous communities.

The *Rural Economic Development and Infrastructure Plan* provides an overview of approximately \$36 billion of public and private investment already underway or under active consideration in Queensland to sustain and grow rural communities. This includes: around \$10 billion in energy infrastructure; \$3 billion in regional and rural roads; \$2.5 billion in rail and port infrastructure; and \$990 million in water projects.

The Queensland government has shown its commitment to rural Queensland by investing more than \$150 million over the next three to four years in Blueprint for the Bush projects and initiatives that include recognising the importance of economic development and infrastructure to the prosperity of rural communities. These projects are:

- **Regional Bridge Renewal Program - Department of Main Roads:** Committing \$350 million for the Regional Bridge Renewal Program to replace more than 100 obsolete bridges throughout rural and regional Queensland. Seventeen bridges were announced in October 2005 as the first bridges to be replaced. These included the: the Gilbert River Bridge on the Burke Development Road; the Jiggera Creek Bridge on the Kilcoy-Murgon Road; the New Country Bridge on the Esk-Kilcoy Road; the Gentle Annie Creek Bridge on Halifax-Lucinda Road; the Oakey Creek Bridge on the Inglewood Texas Road; the Ma Ma Creek Bridge south of Gatton; the Dry Creek Bridge south-west of Gatton; the Three Moon Creek Bridge on the Burnet Highway; the Barambah Creek Bridge on the Bye Road; the McCord Creek Bridge north of Eidsvold; the Wide Bay Creek Bridge on the Bauple-Woolgoolga Road; the David Burgess Bridge on the Mackay Eungalla Road; the Warrill Creek Bridge on the Warrill View-Peak Crossing Road; and the Bush Creek Bridge on the Mossman-Mt Molly road. One new bridge in this program is the Fat Hen Creek Bridge on the Wide Bay Highway (Kilkivan LGA), that was completed in July 2006;
- **Indigenous Environmental Health Infrastructure Mainland Program - Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation:** Providing \$100 million for the Indigenous Environmental Health Infrastructure Capital Grant Program, matching funding provided by the Commonwealth Government;
- **Queensland's 150th Legacy Infrastructure Program - Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation:** Committing \$100 million to celebrate Queensland's 150th anniversary to build legacy projects of local and regional significance, including new community facilities and infrastructure in towns and shires; and
- **Upgrade of Rural Airports - Queensland Transport:** Five million will be provided over the next three years for the upgrade of rural airport facilities, including airstrips at Gaynah, Goondiwindi, Inglewood, Mitchell, Quilpie, Surat, Tambo, Taroom and Windorah.

Other future social and community infrastructure related projects outlined in the Blueprint for the Bush include the 'Fitzroy Industry and Infrastructure Study', 'Additional funding for Indigenous Communities', 'Relocatable Housing', and 'Rural Infrastructure Access'.