

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 291**

**Asked on 7 March 2006**

MR RICKUSS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (MR LUCAS)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Mount Lindesay / North Beaudesert Study Area Report undertaken by the Office of Urban Management and released in February 2006-  
When will Queensland Transport release the outcome of its technical feasibility study into extending a narrow gauge passenger rail service south from Salisbury to Greenbank/Flagstone utilising the existing standard gauge rail freight corridor from Sydney to Brisbane and will he give details of the preliminary findings of the report?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for his question-

The Interstate Rail Corridor Technical Feasibility Study has been undertaken to examine the capability of the existing corridor, (Salisbury to Bromelton), to accommodate additional rail infrastructure for passenger services, having regard to freight requirements on the corridor.

The Government commissioned Queensland Transport to undertake this desktop study to look at the long-term technical issues facing this strategic transport corridor. It was made quite clear from the start, that this study would be the first stage of a very serious examination of the corridor, and that there are many more steps that will need to be taken before passenger rail is considered. Several studies are informing further consideration of the timing of potential future passenger rail investments.

In particular, the Mt Lindesay/North Beaudesert Study Area final report was released on 2 March 2006. This report identified the level and type of development proposed for the next 50 to 60 years in the study area, which could see population growth over that period of 225 000.

This report made provision for transport networks at an indicative level only and proposed a strategic transport network investigation for Mt Lindesay/North Beaudesert and surrounding areas in a regional context. This subsequent investigation is now being undertaken and will be completed in the first half of 2007.

The network investigation covers an area from the Cunningham Highway to the Pacific Highway and from the Logan Motorway south to the edge of the proposed development footprint. The investigation will identify important passenger transport and freight transport links and identify the transport corridors that may be under pressure from development in the area. It will also examine public transport options in the Browns Plains/North Beaudesert area.

The technical feasibility study into extending narrow gauge passenger rail infrastructure south from Salisbury to Greenbank/Flagstone will be considered as an important input to the strategic network investigation.