

Question on Notice

No. 293

Asked on 7 March 2006

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

QUESTION:

What is the current situation regarding Stage 1 of the Frank Street widening project?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Southport for the question. In November last year the Beattie Government announced record funding for Gold Coast roads, which is in no small measure due to the strong advocacy by state Labor members.

Main Roads has advised that works for Stage 1 of the Frank Street widening are on target. The works will provide a four-lane median divided road, with on-road shared bicycle facilities and signalised intersections at Robert Street, Marine Parade and Stevens Street. Indicative total cost for this project in the 2005-06 to 2009-10 Roads Implementation Program is \$19.4m.

Construction of the section between Robert Street and Stevens Street, which includes duplication of the Loders Creek Bridge to reduce the backwater impact in the event of flooding, is expected to commence in July 2006 and is anticipated to be complete by end of 2007. Energex is currently relocating cables along the Gold Coast Highway (Frank Street) and further service relocations works will start in late April.

The total Roads Implementation Program amounts to \$10.5 billion in funding for Queensland roads - an increase of \$2.5 billion or 31 per cent on the previous five year program. The program is made up of \$8.8 billion in state funding and \$1.7 billion from the federal government under its AusLink plan. State funding has grown in real per capita terms from \$213 per person in 1996-97 (and this includes the original Pacific Motorway upgrade) to \$378 per person in 2006-07 – an increase of 77.5% and more than the national average. This compares with federal funding to Queensland of \$68 per person to \$84 per person over the same period.

In 2006-07, \$177m of state funding has been allocated to Gold Coast roads. I can advise the honourable member that Queensland is funding the bulk of the Tugun Bypass; with the \$120m committed by the Howard Government being the only major road funding put into the region in the past three years.

This excludes the \$2.5m provided in blackspot funding to the Gold Coast in the past three years but clearly the Howard Government needs to do much more and so do the Federal Liberal members for who are sitting in safe Liberal Party seats. The Howard Government has allocated nothing to the much needed upgrade of the remainder of the Pacific Motorway, even though the Beattie Government has put \$392m over five years on the table.