

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 623**

**Asked on 21 April 2006**

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the upgrade of the Pacific Motorway through Logan City—(1) What consultation has taken place regarding the planning of the project? (2) What benefits will the constituents of Springwood gain from this project?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Springwood for the question and her strong advocacy for better roads and transport in her electorate.

The Premier announced in July 2005, at the Gold Coast Community Cabinet meeting, that the state government had allocated \$392million over five years on the upgrade of the Pacific Motorway, between Eight Mile Plains and Tugun. The estimated cost of the upgrade is \$1.5 billion. Earlier this year Logan City Council supported a recommendation to lobby the Commonwealth Government for matching funding for the upgrade to proceed. These efforts have fallen on deaf ears and the Federal Government has ignored South East Queensland in the Federal Budget. Despite no funding in the May 9 Budget delivered by Treasurer Peter Costello, the Beattie Government remains committed to progressing the upgrade of Pacific Motorway through the Springwood electorate and, in fact, the full length of the motorway in Logan City.

The Department of Main Roads has progressed planning and design of the Pacific Motorway Transit Project, which will deliver additional lanes and faster travel times. If federal funding had been forthcoming, the state government would be in a position to deliver the first stage of construction in the 2006-07 financial year.

I will continue to lobby to get a fair share of federal funding for the Pacific Motorway on a similar basis to what the Federal Government is providing to NSW for the Pacific Highway upgrade which is \$160M over 10 years. As well last Tuesday's Budget provided an extra matching \$160m payment to NSW.

Since the state government funding announcement, the project team has consulted with State representatives and the community to develop draft planning layouts which are currently on display for feedback.

Specific consultation activities since July 2005 have included:

- Close to 100 personal meetings with potentially affected property owners and stakeholders.
- The establishment of four project reference groups covering areas of interest including transport, pedestrian/cycle/access, government agencies, community and environment.
- Two newsletters which have been distributed to 39,000 residents and businesses in the project area in August 2005 and April 2006.
- A round of public displays at shopping centres and libraries at the start of planning in August 2005 to inform the community.

- A six-week program of public displays of the draft planning layout for public review and comment in April and May 2006.
- Local newspaper advertising to promote both rounds of public displays.
- Dedicated webpages within the Main Roads website.
- Dedicated freecall 1800 phone number and email address direct to the project team.

The latest round of consultation began in April this year with the release of the draft planning layouts for public display. Most recently, the Department of Main Roads conducted a presentation to the Logan City Council Works Committee on 10 April 2006 and to commercial property owners on 2 May 2006.

The Pacific Motorway Transit Project aims to make best use of the road space and encourage alternative transport to move people more quickly and efficiently with:

- new bus lanes
- new transit lanes
- extension of the V1 bikeway
- new bus stations at Paradise Road and Underwood Road with park and ride opportunities
- upgrade of the Loganlea Road interchange.

The people of Springwood and Logan City will find public transport easier to catch with this project, thanks to two new bus stations and dedicated bus lanes on the motorway.

For those who use private vehicles, motorway access will be safer with improved on and off-ramps. Cyclists in the area will benefit from the new V1 bikeway, a commuter-quality bikeway which will ultimately link the Gold Coast and Brisbane, as well as offer local connections within Logan.

Comments received on the draft planning layouts will help the project team refine and finalise the plans for the upgrade between Eight Mile Plains and Daisy Hill by June this year.

I thank all community members who have given input to the planning team.