

Question on Notice

No. 730

Asked on 11 May 2006

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

QUESTION:

What does the Federal Budget mean for the electorate of Pumicestone with regards to roads?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Pumicestone for the question.

The 2006 May Federal Budget did not provide any new AusLink funding for works on the Bruce Highway in South East Queensland. It simply reaffirmed funding commitments which have been announced many times before over the past few years.

With respect to the Pumicestone Electorate, funding to complete the six-laning of the Bruce Highway to Caboolture was again re-affirmed. The upgrading has been completed to Boundary Road and works are currently in progress between Boundary Road and Uhlmann Road. These works are expected to be completed by end of March 2007. The remaining works to Caboolture are expected to be completed in 2008.

Queensland has been advised that any additional funding requirements for the major six-laning AusLink works to Caboolture will need to be met from the \$210m bulk AusLink allocation – even if that funding was initially allocated to the Caboolture-Cairns section of the Bruce Highway.

As part of the five-year AusLink plan, the Federal Government allocated \$210m towards upgrading the Bruce Highway between Caboolture to Cairns, with the bulk of this funding allocated in years three to five (2006-07 to 2008-09).

AusLink funding for the Bruce Highway falls well short by some \$500m, over the timeframe to 2008-09, to deliver the transport efficiency and safety outcomes that are paramount to the state's road users and industry. This is evidenced by the current deficiencies identified in the joint Brisbane to Cairns Corridor Study undertaken last year by the federal Department of Transport and Regional Services, Main Roads and Queensland Transport.

Although well short of the immediate needs of the corridor, the Queensland Government is committed to finalising the current \$210m AusLink program as a matter of priority.