

Question on Notice

No. 733

Asked on 11 May 2006

MR WELLINGTON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (MR LUCAS) –

QUESTION:

With reference to the proposed upgrade and duplication of the railway line from Beerwah to Nambour–

Will he bring forward the study to investigate and finalise the future rail corridor so that some peoples' current anxiety over the future rail corridor can be addressed; if not, what is his most recent timeframe for concluding this study?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for his question.

As I have previously advised in response to QON 1145 the Landsborough to Nambour Corridor upgrade is identified in the South East Queensland Infrastructure Program 2005 – 2026 as part of a four phase of upgrade to the Sunshine Coast rail network. These upgrades include Caboolture to Landsborough (\$550 million), CAMCOS upgrade (Beerwah to Maroochydore \$1.1 billion) and Landsborough to Nambour (\$550 million).

When completed, the upgraded Caboolture to Landsborough section will generate travel time savings of 8 minutes per journey. This equates to an annual saving of 80 hours on a journey to and from work in Brisbane. Additionally, the upgrade will deliver road realignment and safety improvements for road sections adjacent to the rail corridor.

The Beerwah to Landsborough section is part of Government's previously announced commitment to duplicate and upgrade the rail line between Caboolture and Landsborough by 2012. The study for this upgrading is now complete and Queensland Transport is formulating its recommendation concerning the section between Beerburum and Landsborough.

While the Landsborough to Nambour component is not programmed for completion until 2020, a study to identify the corridor required for the upgrade is programmed to be undertaken between 2006-07 and 2008-09, well in advance of construction.

In keeping with these timeframes, it is anticipated that the Landsborough to Nambour Corridor Study will commence in early to mid 2007 and, depending on the outcomes of community consultation and technical issues identified by the study, continue through until mid to late 2008.

The extent of the need to resume properties along the proposed alignment has not been determined at this stage of the investigation process. Where private property needs to be acquired, the government will initially attempt to acquire by negotiated agreements with the affected property owners. Acquisition by resumption will be a last resort and will be based on well-established principles of procedural fairness, natural justice, and compensation at fair market value, rights of appeal, prompt settlement and above all compassion.

Open and frank communication with those property owners affected by the project will form an integral part of the community consultation process, which is expected to commence in mid 2007 as part of the corridor evaluation process and continue through to the completion of the study.

I acknowledge the Honourable Member's interest in this important project which, when completed, will deliver a faster, more reliable and accessible public transport system for the Sunshine Coast and the Hinterland.