

Question on Notice

No. 773

Asked on 23 May 2006

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the recently announced Federal Budget—
Will he advise whether the Federal Government has done anything to reduce traffic congestion and make roads safer in south east Queensland?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Capalaba for the question.

The people of south-east Queensland were the big losers following the May 2006 Federal Budget. There was no new money for the AusLink National Road Network, just reaffirmation of existing federal funding commitments.

After decades of federal under-investment, the priorities that Queenslanders should have rightly expected to see in this year's federal budget in the south east corner include:

- More than \$600m (\$2005) to complete the full upgrade of the Ipswich Motorway, in line with a previous federal government commitment not to walk away from its funding responsibility for this major upgrade.
- A matching federal funding commitment for the \$1.5 billion Pacific Motorway upgrade between Stewart Road, Mudgeeraba and Mount Gravatt-Capalaba Road over the next 8-10 years:
 - Priority works on the Queensland side include provision of transit lanes between Springwood and the Logan Motorway; interchange upgrades at Loganlea Road and several sites south of Nerang; six-laning between Nerang and Mudgeeraba, and the Pacific-Gateway Motorway connection in Brisbane
 - Queensland has already committed \$392m over 5 years to commence this major upgrade, subject to matching federal funding. Planning is well-advanced on a number of works packages
 - NSW has already secured a 10-year \$160m a year. federal funding commitment on a 50/50 basis for the Pacific Highway in NSW. Queensland deserves similar consideration. As part of the 2006 federal budget process, NSW also was advanced an extra \$160m supplementary payment in 2005-06
 - Queensland got NOTHING!

- More than \$220m (\$2003) to deliver the Brisbane Urban Corridor (BUC) Study recommendations for urgent priority improvements to the Ipswich - Gateway Motorway connection, including construction of the Kessels/Mains Roads interchange
- \$50m (\$2005) for the Warrego/Brisbane Valley Highway interchange
- Sufficient federal funding to complete preconstruction activities for stage 2 of the Port of Brisbane Motorway and Gateway Motorway upgrade between Nudgee and Pine River.

These allocations would have been an appropriate federal road funding response to funding its part of the growth needs in SEQ – as highlighted in the South East Queensland Regional Plan and Program, where the state government has committed record levels of transport infrastructure investment totalling some \$27.7 billion over the next 20 years, including \$90m for investigations of further projects.