

Question on Notice

No. 878

Asked on 25 May 2006

MR WELLS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (MR LUCAS)—

QUESTION:

With reference to my many vigorous representations in favour of a rail future for the Petrie - Kippa-Ring transport corridor— Will he advise if he has made a decision?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for his question-

I am aware of his many representations on this subject, and I am grateful for this opportunity to outline the Government's plans for this important corridor.

The Beattie Government is committed to planning for and building the infrastructure to meet the future transport needs of Queensland. The corridor from Petrie to Redcliffe is experiencing rapid growth, and the Government recognises the need to provide improved transport infrastructure for this community.

That's why the *South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan and Program* (SEQIPP) allocates \$230 million to the Petrie to Redcliffe multi-modal corridor, to be spent between 2006-07 and 2025-26.

The majority of this money will be used for construction of a permanent public transport solution to be built in the preserved corridor between Petrie and Redcliffe. The previous edition of SEQIPP identified a bus only solution for this corridor. The Government has listened to local elected representatives and the community – they want rail on the table.

I can assure the community that a railway and a busway will both be given thorough consideration as the Government decides on a permanent solution for the corridor. This is about finding the best solution.

However, to justify the investment in a railway or a busway, we need to know that the community will use it. The best way to test this is to get people onto public transport now, but I know that services need to be frequent and reliable before people will jump on board.

That's why we're investing \$7 million to build T2 lanes and bus priority measures along Anzac Avenue at Kippa-Ring and Rothwell. Once completed, this work will cut peak hour travel time for buses and cars with two or more occupants by up to 4 minutes in peak times. That's the equivalent of 40 minutes less time spent sitting in traffic every week.

However, I am aware that there are still congestion issues on Anzac Avenue through Kallangur.

The Government recognises the need to provide relief for local motorists and a better public transport outcome. I am aware of the concerns of local businesses about loss of on-street parking if extra lanes were constructed through this section. That's why I've asked my departments to urgently investigate an alternative approach.

I have asked TransLink, in partnership with Main Roads, to develop a concept design and impact management plan for a multimodal corridor south of Kallangur. The design will include a multimodal solution between Petrie and Mango Hill incorporating a limited access road south of Anzac Avenue – a road commonly known as the Kallangur bypass.

TransLink will evaluate and recommend staging options for the delivery of infrastructure offering the best value for money to Government. This may include for example:

- bus priority on a Kallangur bypass and rail in the longer term,
- a Kallangur bypass and rail constructed now,
- a busway with a preserved rail corridor.

Bus priority on a limited access road could slash up to ten minutes off a peak hour journey from Mango Hill to Petrie for motorists and bus travelers. This equates to up to an hour and forty minutes less time stuck in traffic every week - an hour and forty minutes that can be spent either earning extra money at work or spending quality time with friends and family.

I know that the community wants action to improve public transport from Petrie to Redcliffe. A \$230 million multi-modal corridor will do just that. I have instructed my departments to give this issue top priority so that the Government is in a position to make a final decision by early 2007.

Once again, I thank the Honourable Member, and other Members such as Linda Lavarch and Ken Hayward, for raising this issue with me. I look forward to working with them as we build a better transport system.