

Question on Notice

No. 27

Asked on 6 February 2007

Ms Van Litsenburg asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (MR LUCAS) -

QUESTION:

With reference to the statements made in *The Courier-Mail* on 6 February 2007 by the Federal Member for Petrie, Teresa Gambaro, in which she stated that the Queensland Government "had to play a part in providing infrastructure" –

Will he advise the relevant expenditure on roads infrastructure by the Federal, Queensland, New South Wales and Victorian Governments?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Redcliffe for the question. The honourable member is a strong advocate for transport infrastructure in her electorate.

I am proud to say the Queensland Government is doing more than playing its part in providing infrastructure. The 2006-07 Budget provides record capital expenditure in the transport portfolio to fund some of the biggest projects in Queensland's history including the Gateway Upgrade Project.

Queensland spends more per capita than other states. Interstate per capita comparisons of roads capital funding for 2006-07 shows New South Wales spends \$249 per capita and Victoria \$218. This means that Queensland's capital works expenditure of \$495 per capita is twice that of New South Wales and 2 ¼ times what Victoria spends.

The Federal government funds transport and roads through its AusLink program. Under this program, Queensland receives \$2.17 billion over the five years 2004-05 to 2008-09. This is 24% of the overall funding for Australia.

It is far less than the \$7.3b that the State Government will spend on road construction and maintenance over the same period. In addition, the State Government will spend a further \$2.95b on rail and public transport.

The total estimated revenue from the Federal government from petrol and diesel excise is \$14.65 billion. This is approximately \$732 per capita Australia-wide and includes both on- and off-road petrol and diesel. The total estimated expenditure by the Federal government on roads in Australia is \$2.582 billion for 2006-07. This represents a return to roads of 19% of total petrol and diesel fuel excise revenue collected.

In December 2006, the Premier and I announced the Roads Implementation Program (RIP) 2006-07 to 2010-11 which provides a record program of works on behalf of the people of Queensland, with a massive \$11.55 billion for roadworks and supporting services over the next five years. It reflects an increase of \$1.05 billion on the previous

five-year RIP (or 10%), and sustainable employment for more than 34,000 people, on average, in roads and supporting industries over the life of the program.

The RIP includes \$9.7 billion (or 84%) from state sources, \$1.7 billion (or 15%) in Federal government funding over the remaining three years of the current AusLink plan, and approximately \$137m (or 1%) in current and forecast natural disaster restoration assistance and developer contributions.

Increased RIP investment has been boosted primarily by extra state funding of some \$600 million under the sixth year of the South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan and Program (SEQIPP) initially announced in April 2005.

In your electorate of Redcliffe, the duplication of the Houghton Highway Bridge is an important project that is in the current RIP and it will have a major effect on transport infrastructure in the Redcliffe area.

Other major projects that will increase benefits to road users on the northern side of Brisbane are the duplication of the Gateway Upgrade Project for \$1.88 billion. Despite the lack of federal funding, the Queensland Government is proceeding with this vital infrastructure for Queensland. Unfortunately, the Federal Government has provided only \$8m in assistance, during the planning and development phase of the project.

Another important project is the upgrading of the Gateway between Nudgee and the Bruce Highway. The later project is a federal funding responsibility. The Department of Main Roads is undertaking a planning project at a cost of \$6m for which the Federal Government's involvement has been sought. The Federal Government advised that no funding is available for this project in the current program.

The Queensland Government is committed to delivering a public transport solution for the many communities throughout the Petrie – Redcliffe region. The 2006 revision of the *South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan and Program* (SEQIPP) listed \$230m funding for public transport infrastructure on the Petrie to Redcliffe multi-modal corridor. Accordingly TransLink, in partnership with the Department of Main Roads, is leading a Concept Design and Impact Management Plan and Business Case.

I am more than happy for the federal members to lecture the state government on infrastructure spending as long as they back this with funding for Queensland. Clearly the Federal Member for Petrie has failed to deliver on funding vital infrastructure for the people of her electorate.