

Question on Notice

No. QON31

Asked on 6 February 2007

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

QUESTION:

Will he provide an update on the upgrading of Morayfield Road to four lanes from Gaffield Street to Uhlmann Road intersection and what progress has been made on the community consultation.

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Kallangur for the question.

The State Government's South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan and Program (SEQIPP) provides for the upgrading of Burpengary – Caboolture Road, known locally as Morayfield Road, between the Uhlmann Road roundabout and Gaffield Street in the period ending 2014-15.

The Department of Main Roads 2006-07 to 2010-11 Roads Implementation Program (RIP) allocates a total of \$90 million for the proposed upgrade of Morayfield Road, including, \$1.06 million in 2006-07, \$6.5 million in 2007-08, \$54.0 million in 2008-09 to 2010-11, with the remaining expenditure of \$28 million allocated in future years.

Morayfield Road is a major arterial road connecting the Bruce Highway, at Uhlmann Road interchange, to Caboolture, via the commercial centre of Morayfield. The road is experiencing significant traffic growth as a result of sustained commercial and residential development within the areas of Caboolture, Morayfield and Burpengary.

Main Roads has appointed project consultants, Connell Wagner, to undertake planning and preliminary design for an initial four-lane road, with provision for six lanes in the future, from the Uhlmann Road roundabout to east of Gaffield Street.

During early 2006, the project team gathered community feedback regarding issues of concern and commenced environmental, traffic and engineering studies. Upgrade options were then developed and presented to the community for feedback in late 2006. Upgrade options are currently being assessed using the results from engineering, traffic, environmental studies and community feedback. It is expected that the community will be informed of the preferred option in the middle of the year.

Main Roads will then undertake preliminary and detailed design of the preferred option with construction expected to commence in 2009-10.

This project will complete the duplication of Morayfield Road from two lanes to a four-lane road standard. Traffic volumes are up to approximately 30,000 vehicles per day and congestion is common during peak periods.

Traffic accident history for the past five years indicates in excess of 85 reported accidents have occurred on this section of road. A large proportion of these accidents can be directly related to the numerous uncontrolled accesses to Morayfield Road.

Due to the wide range of adjoining land uses, traffic demands and continual development within the local area, issues that have been encountered within the project include changes to property access, investigation of a possible parallel service road network at some locations, possible property acquisition, environmental constraints, the North Coast rail corridor and future construction impacts.

Consultation undertaken to date includes project meetings with yourself and the Member for Pumicestone, adjoining residents and landowners and other key stakeholders. These initial meetings provided an opportunity for the project team to hear and discuss project issues.

Project Newsletter 1 was distributed to key stakeholders and the local community in May 2006 to inform the community of the project and provide opportunities for input.

Project Newsletter 2 was distributed to key stakeholders and the local community in September 2006 to inform the community of the department's proposed upgrade option and seek community comment and feedback. The proposed upgrade option was also on public display to give the community an opportunity to talk with the project team, ask questions and have their say during October 2006.

Main Roads is committed to keeping key stakeholders, directly affected property owners and the wider community updated on this project. Main Roads will issue Newsletter 3 to the community once a preferred option is selected.

Main Roads is also progressing well with construction of the \$86 million Caboolture Northern Bypass and a number of other planning projects to upgrade key urban arterial roads to four lanes. Other planning projects include an upgrade to the Deception Bay Road from the Bruce Highway to Lipscombe Road and an upgrade to the Bribie Island Road from Aerodrome Road to Saint Road. Upgrading the state-controlled road network in the Caboolture and surrounding areas is necessary to accommodate the increased traffic volumes generated from sustained commercial and residential development within these designated key metropolitan centres.

The \$240 million Bruce Highway upgrade project between Boundary Road and Caboolture program involves upgrading the highway from four to six lanes and examining longer term requirements for eight lanes.

The \$108 million section between Boundary Road and Uhlman Road is on track for completion this month.

The federally funded highway six-laning project involved initial work to upgrade the Uhlmann Road interchange. As part of the Morayfield Road upgrade, Main Roads will review the interchange configuration to ensure the state-controlled road upgrade integrates effectively with the AusLink national road network. Main Roads will prepare a separate submission under AusLink 2 to secure funding for a future interchange upgrade.