

Question on Notice

No. 353

Asked on 8 March 2007

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

QUESTION:

With reference to his confirmation in late 2006 that work on the Dixon/Claymore Road interchange with the Sunshine Coast Motorway at Sippy Downs would commence mid-2007 for completion mid-2008 –

When will a detailed plan and construction timeframe for the project be available?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Kawana for the question.

Sunshine Coast road funding has increased from \$50m ten years ago under the Borbidge Sheldon Government to \$206m in the current financial year for roadworks in the Maroochy and Noosa Shires and Caloundra City. This increased expenditure will help meet the region's growing infrastructure needs.

The Department of Main Roads' Sunshine Motorway SM2032 Strategic Planning Study identified the need for an upgrade of the Sunshine Motorway to ease congestion and improve safety on the 4km section between Sippy Downs and Kawana Way. The study assigned a high priority to the upgrading of the Sunshine Motorway at Sippy Downs to four lanes and the development of a new interchange at Dixon/Claymore Road to provide additional access to the university and surrounding development.

Main Roads has appointed Basic Construction Services Pty Ltd to duplicate the Sunshine Motorway between Sippy Downs Drive and Kawana Way. Construction is well underway and expected to be completed by mid 2007.

The preferred interchange design has been prepared in close cooperation with Maroochy Shire Council and supports council's Sippy Downs Town Master Plan. The interchange design was delayed due to the Master Plan development.

A second project newsletter will be distributed to directly affected property owners as well as households and businesses located in a broad distribution zone including Sippy Downs, Buderim, Mountain Creek and Mooloolaba in April. The newsletter aims to inform the wider community about the project's progress including the construction of the duplication component and the development of the preferred interchange design. The newsletter explains why the project is being delivered in two components - as council were not in a position to finalise the Master Plan until recently, Main Roads had to separate the duplication and interchange components to deliver the project on time.

A static display will be held at the University of the Sunshine Coast's library and a staffed public display is also planned for the community to view at the Chancellor Park Marketplace to maximise community awareness of the project's progress and the preferred interchange design.

Main Roads is also progressing well with other projects to upgrade the Sunshine Motorway, including the duplication of the Sunshine Motorway from Maroochydore Road to Pacific Paradise, incorporating the new Maroochy River Bridge and the Pacific Paradise Bypass, and the Maroochy Boulevard Interchange. The Beattie Government has made a priority of upgrading the Sunshine Motorway to accommodate the continued economic and population growth on the Sunshine Coast.