

Question on Notice

No. 571

Asked on Thursday 17 April 2007

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

QUESTION:

Will he outline what funding the Government will commit to improving the intersection around Wacol Station Road, Akenside Street and Progress Road?

ANSWER:

I wish to thank the Member for Inala for her question about a funding commitment from the state government to improve traffic conditions in the vicinity of the Wacol train station. Traffic issues like this are of major importance to the people in the Inala and surrounding electorates, and the issue of safety is a high priority for the Queensland government.

The Department of Main Roads has been monitoring traffic impacts at the Wacol Station Road / Progress Road / Akenside Street intersection since traffic signals were installed in October last year.

Significant traffic delays, queuing and congestion result from the number and mix of trains and road vehicles using the train crossing on Wacol Station Road.

Major works are required to fix this issue and a long-term, permanent solution involving grade separation would cost in the vicinity of \$100m. At present, funding for such a major project is not available and Main Roads is currently looking at interim, lower cost solutions which can provide immediate safety and congestion relief benefits.

Main Roads has considered a number of lower cost options aimed at helping traffic queues to clear more quickly after the boom gates at the rail crossing open. Works have been identified which are planned to improve the capacity of the Wacol Station Road / Progress Road / Akenside Street intersection. Traffic analysis indicates the proposed changes will improve traffic flows through the intersection and will help to reduce the delays and congestion being experienced.

These works, which initial estimates put at \$900,000, are planned to start in July/August 2007 and will take about four weeks to complete. A newsletter has been prepared to advise local residents and businesses about the scope of these improvement works and is due to be delivered by the end of May 2007.

This upgrade forms part of the early works for the broader Wacol to Darra upgrade and will provide better and safer conditions for local road users.