

Question on Notice

No. 714

Asked on 22 May 2007

MR SPRINGBORG asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (MR BEATTIE) -

QUESTION:

With reference to his announcement on 10 December 2006 that he would make sure that schools with campuses on both sides of a main road would have either overhead or underground pedestrian walkways installed for the safety of students and staff and his Chief of Staff advice that processes were to be established to address this important issue and that they would include, identifying the relevant schools, scoping the most appropriate responses and determining project management matters and as he further advised on 26 April 2007 that the review of this matter was to be completed by the end of April 2007 –

Will he now advise the students, parents and teaching staff of Queensland (a) what positive action, if any, has resulted to date since this intensive, exhaustive and investigative review has taken place, (b) how many schools across Queensland are affected by this problem and (c) which of the following is to be undertaken in relation to St Mary's School, Warwick, (i) moving the pedestrian crossing in Wood Street to the intersection of Wood and Palmerin Streets or (ii) construction of an overhead pedestrian walkway across Wood Street?

ANSWER:

Firstly, let me take this opportunity to report on the progress at the Redcliffe State High School.

I can advise that a number of activities have been completed, for example site survey, geotechnical investigation and investigation of utility services. While this has been happening there has been consultation with the school community.

As a result Main Roads has been able to determine that an overpass is the most appropriate solution to separate the students from the traffic at this school. The project is on track to see the new overpass in place for the start of the 2008 school year.

In regard to the state-wide review of split campuses on major roads, I can advise that the review work has been completed. This involved collaboration by Education Queensland and Main Roads.

As a result of this work, Main Roads has recommended three schools that warrant further consideration for some form of a separated crossing. These schools are Mabel Park State Schools fronting Paradise Road on the south side of Brisbane, St Mary's School fronting the Cunningham Highway in Warwick and Emmaus College fronting the Bruce Highway in Rockhampton.

In the case of St Mary's School, having met the criteria established in the review, it is intended to pursue some form of separation between the students and the traffic flow rather than altering the location of the traffic signals.

The final form of this will be determined through detailed investigations and consultation with the school communities, similar to the approach taken at Redcliffe. Preliminary information obtained during the review indicates that an overpass is likely to be the best option. However, Main Roads will meet with the school in the near future to discuss the options in more detail.

There are also a number of schools that were defined by Education Queensland as split campuses, but which according to Main Roads' assessment do not require a grade separated crossing at this time. All but one of these are on local government controlled roads.

Recognising that pedestrian safety, especially for children, is paramount, Main Roads and Queensland Transport will write to all of these schools and the relevant local government offering to work with the community to improve safety. This could be through the provision of improved signage and line marking, pedestrian fencing, bollards, flashing lights or other appropriate means.

It is important that the potential treatments are appropriate to the local circumstances. At all times, pedestrian safety will be the primary consideration.