

Question on Notice

No. 881

Asked on 6 June 2007

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the State Government road contracts on the Sunshine Coast within the ministerial portfolios –

What quantities of road making material has been contracted for supply for the construction of roads in the region which has been required to be transported along the Kenilworth-Eumundi Road over the last 12 months?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Nicklin for the question.

The Sunshine Coast is one of Australia's fastest growing regions attracting new residents and tourists each year. Around 300,000 people now live and work in the region.

Continued economic and population growth is placing increased pressure on the region's transport infrastructure. That's why the Beattie government is making a major investment into Sunshine Coast road projects.

Sunshine Coast road funding has increased from \$50 million ten years ago, to \$280 million in the current financial year. This increased expenditure will help meet the region's growing infrastructure needs.

Naturally, with this demand for infrastructure, it is to be expected that large volumes of quarry material are needed and the region is fortunate to have ready access to such on the Sunshine Coast. I understand that Sunshine Coast Quarries Pty Ltd, situated on Moy Pocket Road, is a major supplier for this boom in coastal development.

The quarry itself would be best placed to provide you with specific quantities of material contracted for supply to construction projects on the Sunshine Coast. However, the department has advised that over the last twelve months approximately 680,000 tonnes of material has been carried on Eumundi-Kenilworth Road sourced from Moy Pocket quarry for the Caloundra Road, Maroochydore Road and Sunshine Motorway road upgrade projects. Delivery of gravel from the quarry to these projects will continue until at least mid 2008.

I am aware of your concerns that the quarry trucks are contributing to a deterioration in the condition of the Eumundi-Kenilworth Road and the issues you have raised with me in relation to the narrow width and winding alignment of the road.

Main Roads has advised the road surface will be maintained in a safe condition. The department spent about \$550,000 last financial year on road maintenance, which has been primarily directed towards pothole patching and small pavement patches.

I have recently announced the department's maintenance strategy for additional safety improvements. Main Roads is getting on with the job of improving the Eumundi-Kenilworth Road, with an increase in routine maintenance, to keep the road in a safe condition until major upgrading works are complete.

With the allocation of an additional \$1.5 million towards maintenance works on the Eumundi-Kenilworth Road, Main Roads has advised that it is already investigating opportunities for cost effective rehabilitation treatments and shoulder widening. The maintenance works program will commence in the next few months and will continue until December 2007. These improvements will benefit road users and help keep them safe, while planning is underway for major upgrading works.

The state government has been progressively upgrading Eumundi-Kenilworth Road over the past ten years, including the replacement of bridges at Belli Creek Crossing No.1 and 3 and Eerwah Creek.

I am advised that the Department of Main Roads' Roads Implementation Program 2007-08 to 2011-12 allocates a further \$15.4 million, to replace the narrow bridge and road approaches at Belli Creek Crossing No. 2 in mid 2008, with other widening and resurfacing work between Archer Road and Belli Creek Crossing No. 1 following in mid 2009.

Main Roads advises it will also carry out improvements to the road delineation and route signage in early 2008, at a cost of \$290,000 as part of the Safer Roads Sooner Program.