

Question on Notice

No. 915

Asked on 7 June 2007

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

QUESTION:

What benefits will the State Government's Caboolture Bypass bring to the area?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Pumicestone for the question.

The State Government has committed \$87 million for the construction of the Caboolture Bypass.

With the overall project completion scheduled for later this year, the bypass is already shaping up as a vital link to improve safety and ease of movement for pedestrians, cyclists and local traffic accessing local businesses and services in Caboolture.

Residents will notice a significant improvement in safety and traffic conditions in Caboolture with the removal of through traffic, particularly heavy vehicles from the CBD.

One of the main aims of the bypass design was to ease congestion on both Beerburum Road and Lower King Street and also on the Mewett Street roundabout and Bribie Island Road interchange.

The bypass will also provide a safe, high-speed connection between the existing D'Aguilar Highway at Moodlu and the national highway network, serving as a gateway for the wider South Burnett community.

I am pleased to say that construction of the bypass is progressing well. As you are aware, Stage One of the bypass was opened to traffic in July 2003 and Stage Two is currently being constructed under two contracts.

An earlier contract for the Mewett Street overpass bridge was completed by Moggill Contractors in May 2006. JF Hull Holdings completed the rest of the bridgework component in May this year with a spectacular structure crossing the Caboolture Show grounds and Lagoon Creek.

The roadworks component is under construction by Leighton Contractors and is on target for completion by November this year. This will include the construction of the Caboolture Bypass interchange connecting with the Bruce Highway, which will perform an integral role in six-laning the highway from Uhlmann Road to Caboolture. This integration is part of the federal government's commitment under AusLink to upgrade the Bruce Highway from the Gateway Arterial to Caboolture.

I recently announced the award of a \$2.6 million contract to Leighton Contractors to carry out preliminary design of the federally funded six-lane highway upgrade from Uhlmann Road to the Caboolture Bypass interchange, under an Early Contractor Involvement. The Early Contractor Involvement process will allow for a project completion forecast date in late 2008, which is some three months earlier than forecast using a conventional design then construct method.

Upgrading this section of highway to six lanes will enhance transport efficiency, reduce congestion, improve safety and allow for continued growth in one of the fastest growing areas of the state.

Construction of the Caboolture Bypass, together with a suite of other major road upgrade projects in the Caboolture and surrounding areas is necessary to accommodate the increased traffic volumes for sustained commercial and residential development within these designated key metropolitan centres.

This funding injection for upgrading the state-controlled road network is another example of the state government's commitment to this rapidly developing region.