

Question on Notice

No. 112

Asked on 14 February 2008

Ms Van Listenburg asked the Minister for Main Roads and Local Government (MR PITT) -

QUESTION:

As construction commenced this month on the \$315m duplication of the Houghton Highway Bridge –

Will he outline the benefits that this major project to the residents of Redcliffe and the northern bayside suburbs of Brisbane?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Redcliffe for the question.

On completion, this bridge linking Redcliffe to Brisbane will offer considerable benefits. Travel time will be reduced for public transport and private motor vehicles, including better travel time reliability in peak periods.

The Houghton Highway Bridge will vastly increase traffic capacity between the Redcliffe Peninsula and Brisbane's northside.

Each day, motorists and passengers in some 36 000 vehicles are commuting back and forth via the Houghton Highway.

Buses will be given priority at the northern intersection using a dedicated bus lane and will travel in the T2 lanes across both bridges.

There will be improved safety for the travelling public. Traffic will only travel in one direction on each of the two bridges. This will reduce the potential current cause of accidents where traffic is travelling on the existing bridge. In addition, there will be better incident management using Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) including closed circuit television, which allows Main Roads to monitor traffic and send emergency response vehicles as required.

The project offers better pedestrian and cycle path connectivity including underpasses along the foreshore at both ends and a 4.5 metre wide replacement pedestrian and cycle path across Bramble Bay, which includes wheelchair access and rest stops. The path will be integrated with the road bridge and separated by a barrier.

There will be landscaping and improvement of car parks at the northern and southern ends.

A fishing platform will be provided at the southern channel. The platform is seaward of the new bridge and includes seating, shelter, drink fountains and lighting.

A section of the Hornibrook Highway Bridge will be reconstructed to preserve heritage values and provide access to the northern channel's fishing platform.

Once the new bridge opens, the existing Houghton Highway Bridge will be refurbished. All work is scheduled to finish by mid-2011, when commuters will have access to both bridges, as well as dedicated lanes for public transport services.

The new Houghton Highway Bridge has been designed to withstand a one in 2000 year storm providing all weather access between Brisbane and the Redcliffe Peninsula.