

Question on Notice

No. 117

Asked on 14 February 2008

MR GIBSON asked the Minister for Main Roads and Minister for Local Government (MR PITT) –

QUESTION:

Will he detail for 1997 to 2007 (reported separately by year) the number of road crashes that have occurred on the Bruce Highway – Cooroy to Curra section – where the road was listed as one of the contributing circumstances and will he provide details on road design and crash chart analysis for the same section of road for the period 15 March 2002 to 31 December 2007?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

Main Roads has provided the following details of the road and non-road contributing factors associated with crashes on the section of the highway between Cooroy and the Wide Bay Highway. In regard to the information requested, "details on road design and crash chart analysis", Main Roads advises that this is not collated in the manner sought by the Honourable Member. However, I have requested the District Director (North Coast-Hinterland) and his crash team to brief you on this subject.

As the honourable member is aware, the KPMG report that was commissioned by Main Roads following a series of crashes on the Bruce Highway at the Federal road section identified that the majority of crashes at this section occurred after the application of stone mastic asphalt on 15 March 2002.

Following this series of crashes Main Roads also commissioned road expert, Professor Rod Troutbeck, to conduct an independent review into the use of SMA on Queensland roads. The final report has confirmed that stone mastic asphalt is a safe surfacing for Queensland roads, and has no systemic safety issues. The report did not identify other SMA crash sites requiring further attention on the Cooroy to Curra section of the Bruce Highway.

I am advised that Main Roads investigates all fatal and certain other crashes that occur on the state-controlled road network. In North Coast-Hinterland District, Main Roads crash investigators work collaboratively with Queensland Police Service officers from the Forensic Crash Unit to determine and address any significant road contributing circumstances. Furthermore, representatives from Main Roads and Queensland Police Service attend regular Traffic Advisory Committee Meetings. These meetings provide a forum for QPS to raise any issues about the safety of the state-controlled road network.

The long overdue upgrade of this section of the Bruce Highway is a priority for this government which has lobbied strenuously for the funds. These efforts will continue following the Rudd Government's commitment to allocate the first \$200 million towards land acquisition and design. It is a shame that the federal member for Wide Bay, the Hon. Warren Truss, achieved so little for his constituents in the way of getting the worst stretch of road in Australia upgraded.

ATTACHMENT 2

Bruce Highway - Cooroy to District Boundary (north of Gympie)

(Ch 101.6 km on Rd10A to Ch 14.03 km on Rd10B)

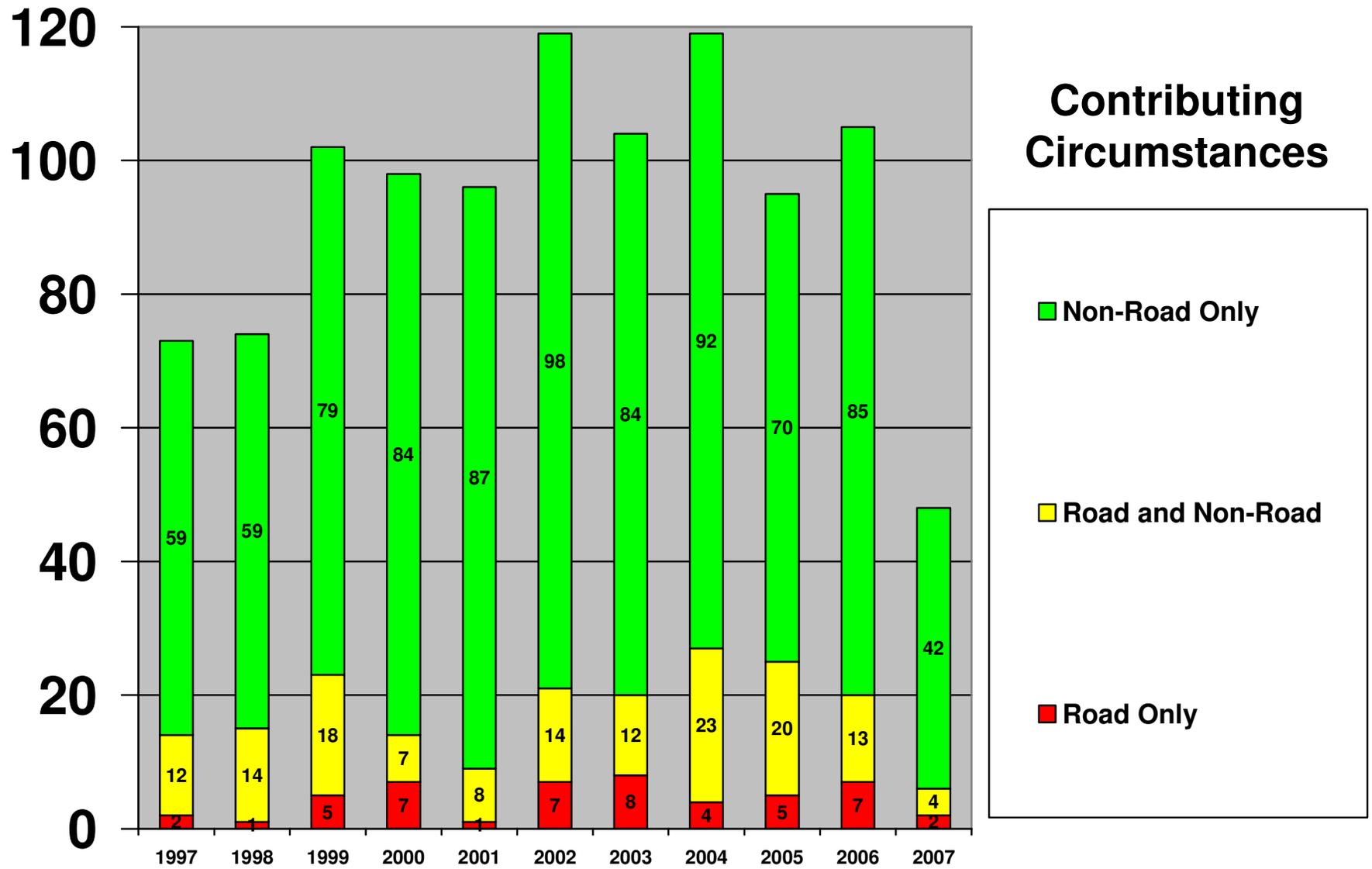
Contributing Circumstances 1 January 1997 to 31 December 2007

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	TOTAL
Non-Road Only Contributing Circumstances	59	59	79	84	87	98	84	92	70	85	42	839
Road Only Contributing Circumstances	2	1	5	7	1	7	8	4	5	7	2	49
Road & Non-Road Contributing Circumstances	12	14	18	7	8	14	12	23	20	13	4	145
Total Road Contributing Circumstances	14 (19%)	15 (20%)	23 (23%)	14 (14%)	9 (9%)	21 (18%)	20 (19%)	27 (23%)	25 (26%)	20 (19%)	6 (13%)	194 (19%)
Total Crashes	73	74	102	98	96	119	104	119	95	105	48	1033

Total Crashes..... **1033**
 Road Only Contributing Circumstances **49 (4.7%)**
 Road combined with other Non-Road Contributing Circumstances..... **145 (14%)**
 Total Crashes where Road was cited as a Contributing Circumstance... **194 (18.8%)**

Notes

1. Years 2006 & 2007 are subject to confirmation pending finalised advice from QPS.
2. "Non-Road Only" contributing circumstances include Lighting, Atmospheric, Violation, Condition, Vehicle and Driver categories, and other circumstances such as Excessive Speed for Circumstances, Police Chase and Uncontrolled Animal on Road.



Numbers & Types of Road Contributing Circumstances

1 January 1997 to 31 December 2007

