

Question on Notice
No. 1539
Asked on 28 October 2008

MR O'BRIEN asked the Premier (MS BLIGH) -

QUESTION:

Will she advise how people living in the Douglas area of Cairns can benefit from her announcement today regarding cycling infrastructure for Far North Queensland?

ANSWER:

Toward Q2 targets a one third reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and reducing private vehicle use is a major part of that. Over the past 10 years, the former Douglas Shire has boasted the highest rates of cycling to work in all of Far North Queensland. A continued and increasing use of cycling by the people of the Douglas area will help us to meet our Q2 target.

The *Queensland Cycle Strategy 2003* sets a target of increasing cycle trips by 50% by 2011. Queensland Transport and the Department of Main Roads are currently developing the *Principal Cycle Network Plan for Far North Queensland*. This plan covers the local government areas of Cairns Regional Council, Cassowary Coast Regional Council, Tablelands Regional Council, Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council and Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council. The final plan comprising network maps, methodology, consultation report and implementation plan will be ready for release in March 2009.

As I announced at Regional Parliament, the \$6.1M cycleway from Cairns Central Business District to Aeroglen is a down-payment on a full program of cycle infrastructure for Far North Queensland. The cycleway will provide a safe route for commuters to workplaces, to the city's language schools and to shopping and recreational facilities such as the Botanic Gardens and Cairns Central.

The State is now consulting with local governments in the region to determine the most appropriate implementation plan and program. Details will be contained within the final *Principal Cycle Network Plan for Far North Queensland* when it is released in March 2009.