

Question on Notice

No. 1591

Asked on 29 October 2008

MISS SIMPSON asked the Minister for Main Roads and Local Government (MR PITT) -

QUESTION:

With reference to Question on Notice No. 118 on 14 February 2008 –

Will he list the completed works to date and their respective locations on the Peak Downs Highway in 2008-09 from the budgeted sum of \$15.5m (completed works and locations reported separately)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Maroochydore for the question.

A \$1 million upgrade to improve the Peak Downs Highway east of Bee Creek was completed in June 2008, two weeks ahead of schedule and under budget. This section of the highway caters for a large number of heavy vehicles, and the wider traffic lanes and shoulders will make it safer for the traffic mix.

A \$700,000 project to construct an additional lane and replace the guardrail on the top of Eton Range is expected to be completed in early December 2008.

The additional lane will link the climbing lane with the overtaking lane, providing extra overtaking opportunities near the top of the Range.

As part of the work, an earth bund is also being constructed behind the guardrail near the top of the Range to improve safety for heavy vehicle operators.

This project is part of Main Roads commitment to improving safety and efficiency on the Eton Range.

The balance of the \$15.5 million allocated for works on the Peak Downs Highway in 2008-09, as well as an additional \$6.5 million, includes:

- \$2.3 million to improve safety on a 4.2km stretch of the highway between Racecourse Mill and Mackay-Eungella Road turn-off. Some \$1.1 million of preliminary repair works has already been completed. Recently commenced asphalt repair works will be followed by an asphalt overlay in February 2009, weather permitting.

- \$3 million to widen a 4.8km section of the Peak Downs Highway between Cut Creek and Retreat. This upgrade, which commenced on 10 November 2008, will enhance the road's capacity, while providing a safer stretch of highway for motorists. The works also include upgrading three roadside rest areas, aimed at addressing motorist fatigue.
- \$11.5 million to construct a deviation on the Peak Downs Highway near Clermont. This project is being funded by Rio Tinto Coal.
- \$490 000 to widen and rehabilitate an 8.1 km stretch of highway at Myall Creek. The works will improve safety by providing an 8.5 metre sealed road to the 14,000 vehicles that use this stretch of highway every day.
- \$112 000 to complete the realignment of the bridge at Blackwaterhole Creek.
- \$1.9 million will be spent to construct overtaking lanes between Elvins Road and Burgess Lane.
- \$260 000 was spent in 2008-09 to complete pavement widening between Boundary Creek and Cut Creek.
- \$110 000 was also spent in 2008-09 to complete the traffic investigations at Walkerston.
- \$271 000 was spent on the upgrading of Bee Creek Floodway, to improve drainage and reduce the impact of flooding.
- \$393 000 to upgrade the bridge at Sandy Creek.

The Peak Downs Highway is part of Queensland's strategic road network and connects Clermont in the Central Highlands with Mackay. It is a vital link for freight, the Bowen Basin Mining Industry and tourism from Mackay and the Central Highlands.