

## Question on Notice

No. 1643

Asked on Thursday 30 October 2008

MISS SIMPSON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (MR MICKEL) —

QUESTION:

With reference to the Cairns Transit Network launched this week—

- (1) How much money has been set aside for this project?
- (2) Who has been consulted?
- (3) What is the timeframe for all sections of its implementation (reported separately)?

ANSWER:

I am advised :

(1) To date, Queensland Transport has allocated \$1m to develop the concept design for the Cairns Transit Network, including extensive community consultation activities. This includes \$600 000 in the 2007-08 budget and \$400 000 in the 2008-09 budget. The concept design will identify staging priorities, and it is expected that individual business cases will be developed over the coming years for these priority sections.

(2) The Cairns Transit Network project implements strategies from the *Cairns Integrated Public Transport Plan*, which was endorsed by both state and local government in 2005. The *Cairns Integrated Public Transport Plan* was a joint project of Queensland Transport, Department of Main Roads and Cairns City Council. The strategies in this plan were developed with extensive public consultation over several years. This consultation included a community reference group, staffed public displays, stakeholder meetings, advertisements and a variety of options for public feedback including freecall, reply paid mail and email.

The Cairns Transit Network project was publicly launched on 28 October 2008, enabling a new phase of consultation to begin. Prior to the public launch, a range of key stakeholders were briefed including Cairns Regional Council, Cairns Chamber of Commerce, Queensland Health, James Cook University, Ergon, Mulgrave Mill, Stockland Earlville Shopping Centre, Cairns Jockey Club, Mount Peter Masterplan Taskforce, other state agencies and major landowners of potential station locations. The current round of public consultation provides substantial opportunities for community feedback. This includes 11 staffed displays at shopping centres and community markets; advertisements and newsletters in local newspapers; briefings and one-on-one meetings with stakeholder groups; and freecall, reply paid, email and website feedback options. A second round of public consultation is also planned for early 2009 to gain community input on the preferred design.

(3) The *Cairns Integrated Public Transport Plan* identifies the need for a bus rapid transit system from Cairns Central Business District to Edmonton by 2036. The Cairns Transit Network project aims to evaluate this timeframe and will identify the staging priorities for the entire network, from Palm Cove to Gordonvale and west to Redlynch. Queensland Transport is undertaking transport modelling to identify the most appropriate timeframes for implementation, and this will be included in any future business case submitted to government. A key benefit of the proposed bus-based rapid transit system is the ability to roll out sections as needed. This is a long-term plan for Cairns which is expected to be implemented over the next 20 to 30 years.