

## Question on Notice

No. 1657

Asked on 11 November 2008

MR O'BRIEN asked the Minister for Main Roads and Local Government (MR PITT) -

QUESTION:

1. What expenditure will go into improving Indigenous access roads into Cape York communities this year and what expenditure is proposed for next year?
2. What projects will be delivered?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Cook for the question.

The State Government is continuing to provide funding to improve Indigenous access roads into Cape York communities with a variety of work currently underway or planned to be carried out during 2008-09 and 2009-10.

### **Peninsula Developmental Road**

The State Government recognises the importance of the Peninsula Developmental Road and the role it plays in the social and economic development of the Cape York Peninsula area.

Work commenced in April this year (2008) on a \$21 million project to seal a 25.2-kilometre section from Lily Creek to Crocodile Gap, between Lakeland and Laura.

The Queensland Government is contributing \$11 million to this project and the Australian Government is contributing \$10 million through the AusLink program.

A 10-kilometre section is currently sealed between Lily Creek and Crocodile Gap with a further six-kilometres to be sealed by the end of December 2008. The overall project is due to be completed in June 2009.

In 2009-10, \$3 million will be spent to widen and seal a further five-kilometres of the Peninsula Developmental Road. This includes sealing a four-kilometre section and construction of a bridge at Carols Crossing over the Laura River, and sealing a one-kilometre section and construction of a bridge at Ruths Creek. Additional projects between Lakeland and Laura are under discussion with the Australian Government as part of the AusLink 2 negotiations.

### **Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS) funding**

A total of \$8.2 million is allocated to assist local governments upgrade and maintain council roads in the Cape over the next two years from 2008-09 to 2009-10, under the State Government's Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS).

In 2008-09, a total of \$5.9 million in TIDS funding will be spent to upgrade and maintain remote access roads in the Cape York Peninsula area.

Recently completed projects include:

- sealing of a 1.2-kilometre section of the Mapoon to Mapoon Airstrip Road, at a total cost of \$1.2 million (jointly funded between state and federal governments)
- sealing a 3.5-kilometre section of the Hopevale Road from Battle Camp turnoff to Palm Creek, at a total cost of \$3.1 million (jointly funded between state and federal governments)
- sealing a one-kilometre section of the Kowanyama Access Road, at a total cost of \$450 000
- pavement and drainage works on the Lockhart River Access Road between Garraways Creek and Tozer's Gap, at a total cost of \$900 000.

Projects to be completed by June 2009 include:

- a project to upgrade a 700-metre section of the causeway, 2.5 kilometres from Pormpuraaw on the Pormpuraaw Access Road, at a total cost of \$900 000
- a project to upgrade the section of the Northern Peninsula Road (Bamaga Road) south of Sailors Hill, at a total cost of \$1.5 million (jointly funded between TIDS and Australian Government's AusLink funding program)
- works on the Aurukun Access Road, at a total cost of \$600 000
- bitumen sealing work on the Wujal Wujal Road, south of the Bloomfield River Crossing, at a total cost of \$200 000.

In 2009-10, a total of \$3.5 million in TIDS funding will be spent to upgrade and maintain remote access roads in the area.

Funding includes:

- \$1 million for drainage and pavement upgrades on the Lockhart River Access Road between Tozer's Gap and the rainforest section, including 10 new drainage structures, at a total cost of \$2 million (Australian Government contributing \$1 million as part of AusLink2 program)
- \$750,000 to continue to upgrade the section of the Northern Peninsula Road (Bamaga Road), south of Sailors Hill, due to be completed late 2009
- \$750 000 to complete the full length of the causeway on the Pormpuraaw Access Road
- \$1.5 million to improve drainage on the first 30 kilometres of the Aurukun Access Road, at a total cost of \$3 million (Australian Government to also contribute \$1.5 million as part of AusLink 2 program)
- \$300 000 for works on the Mapoon Airstrip Road.

The Australian Government recently announced a commitment of \$10.5 million towards improvement of Remote Community Access Roads in Cape York to minimise disruptions caused by road closures during the wet season. The Queensland Government will consider contributing matching funding for these projects under the TIDS scheme for projects commencing July 2009.

Restoration and flood damage repair works are also being carried out to restore remote access roads that sustained damage during the 2008 wet season. Funding is provided through the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements program, a joint state and federal initiative. Work commenced following the 2008 wet season and is due to be completed late 2009.

Projects include restoration and flood damage repair works on the Aurukun Access Road at a cost of \$1 million, Pormpuraaw Access Road at a cost of \$2.5 million and Mapoon to Mapoon Airstrip Road at a cost of \$600 000.