

## Question on Notice

No. 1713

Asked on 11 November 2008

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

### QUESTION:

What measures has his department taken to promote cycling and improve cycling safety in Cairns?

### ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Barron River for the question.

Main Roads recognises the growth of cycling as an alternative mode of transport and a number of initiatives are in place to promote cycling and improve cycling safety in Cairns.

On 28 November 2008, I announced that Main Roads will undertake a major planning study for the Bruce Highway, between south of Edmonton and Draper Street near the Cairns City centre, as part of a major upgrade planned for the existing southern corridor.

This study will consider all modes of transport, not just cars, but will include future provision for buses, cars, trains, bicycles and pedestrians to provide a total transport solution using the existing transport corridor.

On 28 October 2008, the Premier announced the release of the Principal Cycle Network Plan for Far-North Queensland. This plan, developed by Main Roads and Queensland Transport, will guide the development of the cycle network across the region.

The Captain Cook Highway from Mossman to Port Douglas has been identified as one of the highest priority links to be improved as part of this plan. Main Roads has allocated funding of \$2.06 million in 2008-09 to widen and seal shoulders to improve cyclist safety and amenity along this route.

Main Roads will be working closely with other agencies to achieve coordinated planning and implementation of pedestrian and cycling facilities and I have designated 'cycling champions' within each region of Main Roads to facilitate Main Roads' involvement in these plans.

Main Roads is committed to improving cyclist safety and where possible incorporates bicycle-related infrastructure and initiatives in road-upgrading projects and the existing road network. Recently completed projects include:

- the completion of two projects on the Captain Cook Highway to improve pedestrian and bicycle facilities at the Machans Beach and Caravonica roundabouts, at a total cost of \$210 000
- the installation of green pavement markings for bicycles at various intersections and roundabouts in Cairns, a first for cyclists on state-controlled roads

- the installation of bicycle hook-turn storage boxes at various intersections in Cairns, initially implemented during the upgrade of the Mulgrave Road and Severin Street intersection in 2007.

The hook-turn storage boxes, another first for cyclists on state controlled roads, are providing a safer option for cyclists when wanting to make a right-turn at multi-laned intersections. They are being installed at identified intersections currently being upgraded across the region, including the intersection of Mulgrave Road and Aumuller Street.

Main Roads has also developed a close working relationship with the Cairns Bicycle User Group and regularly consults with representatives in relation to planning and design of bicycle facilities and infrastructure for road projects.

As you are aware, I recently presented the Cairns Bicycle User Group with \$2 500 to assist the organisation promote Bike Week, Ride to Work Day and other cycling events.

This funding is part of a state-wide contribution of \$30 000 provided to cycling groups throughout the state as part of our commitment to support Bicycle Queensland and the provision of safe cycling facilities in Queensland.