

Question on Notice

No. 1725

Asked on 12 November 2008

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

QUESTION:

- (1) Why is the government not seeking additional funding from the Commonwealth for the upgrade of the Cooroy-Curra stretch of the Bruce Highway?
- (2) Why is the government not using the unallocated State Government \$636m in the current roads implementation program for the upgrade of the Cooroy-Curra stretch of the Bruce Highway?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Gympie for the question.

The Bruce Highway, including the Cooroy-Curra upgrade, forms part of the AusLink Network and the Federal Government is responsible for funding all works on this road.

The Department of Main Roads is committed to maintaining and improving the condition of this section of the Bruce Highway. We will continue detailed planning activities and work with the Federal Government to progress the project.

As part of the federal government's election commitment, an amount of \$200 million was promised to the Bruce Highway (Cooroy-Curra) project. This funding was to commence the planning and design on this project, as well as provide proper compensation for impacted landowners.

A Project Proposal Report (PPR) was submitted to the federal Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government (DITRD LG) in April 2008. It allows for the preparation of business cases and land acquisition for three of the project's subsections.

We have also included this section in our submission to the Federal Government for funding through the Building Australia Fund, so it is clear that we are seeking further funds for this project.

Unallocated state funding for the AusLink Network within the North Coast Region for the 2008-09 financial year is \$636 000 – not \$636 million as stated by the member. This is far less than the funding required to progress an upgrade of the magnitude of the Cooroy-Curra works.