

Question on Notice

No. 1875

Asked on 27 November 2008

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the multi-million dollar cycleway along the Western Freeway – What will be the likely impact on this expensive and valuable piece of cycle infrastructure of a future upgrade of the Western Freeway?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Moggill for the question.

As you are aware, in August 2008 I announced that the Department of Main Roads has begun a planning study to look at ways to upgrade the Centenary Motorway between the Ipswich Motorway and the Toowong roundabout.

The Centenary Motorway is recognised as a key link in Brisbane's multi-modal transport network and needs redevelopment to accommodate the transport needs of a growing population.

The motorway currently fulfils an array of functions, from being a high priority freight route, through to providing access for local journeys in the western suburbs of Brisbane and being an important cycling route.

The Centenary Motorway Planning Study is at the beginning of the planning cycle. Therefore I am advised that speculation about any potential cycleway impacts is premature at this preliminary stage.

However I can assure the honourable member that providing high quality infrastructure that will improve the great Queensland lifestyle through walking and cycling is important to the Bligh government.

Main Roads will continue to work with other state agencies, including the TransLink Transit Authority and Queensland Transport, and Brisbane City Council to ensure that active transport (walking and cycling) ideas developed for the Centenary Motorway are integrated into the wider strategic transport picture.

Main Roads will be undertaking a comprehensive community consultation exercise as part of the planning study in the future. Any future impacts on the Western Freeway cycleway will be investigated as part of the planning process to ensure the best outcome for this important project. In the meantime the cycling community of western suburbs and beyond can be reassured that the Bligh Government is committed to maintaining this important community infrastructure as we create Australia's healthiest state.