

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 287**

**Asked on 11 March 2008**

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

QUESTION:

To relieve traffic congestion and pollution, what is being done to encourage cycling to the Brisbane Airport precinct where many staff are employed in businesses that are unrelated to actual airport operations?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Aspley for her question.

The Taskforce Report to improve short term access into and out of the Brisbane Airport precinct identified that projected growth in day jobs in the Airport precinct as a factor in congestion. The report stated that, "In the six-year period from 2007 to 2013, the total average day airport jobs will grow from 11,677 to 24,539 in 2013 (average growth of 13 per cent per year). Of that growth, 3,519 additional average day jobs (27 per cent of the total) are projected for the precinct known as No. 1 Airport Drive. Developments proposed in the precinct include a Woolworths outlet, Medical Centre, office space, child care centres and a hotel".

Main Roads stated that these developments do, and will continue to contribute to, increased travel demand on Airport Drive. Main Roads and the other stakeholders are getting on with implementing the taskforce recommendations.

The Department is also planning for better cycling facilities between the new Gateway Bridge, Kingsford Smith Drive at Eagle Farm and the Kedron Brook cycle path, north of Schulz Canal.

The options currently being developed will identify great opportunities for future connections to surrounding cycle links, commercial and retail precincts and of course, Brisbane Airport.

Main Roads is liaising closely with key stakeholders, such as Brisbane City Council, Bicycle Queensland and the Brisbane Airport Corporation. This planning is well underway, with a preferred bikeway plan expected to be finalised by mid-year. The community will have an opportunity to have their say on the proposed cycle way in mid 2008 when Main Roads is planning to go to public consultation. The department will release a draft plan for public comment through distribution of a newsletter and public displays.

The completion of the proposed cycling facilities are planned, subject to funding, to be programmed to coincide with opening of the new Gateway Bridge, which is scheduled to be operational by late 2010. As the Member for Aspley would know, provision for cyclists features very strongly in the new \$1.88 billion Gateway Bridge duplication which is already months ahead of schedule.

Within this project there is a provision of approximately \$30 million towards a 4.5 meter wide pedestrian and cycleway to be constructed on the eastern side of the second bridge, featuring viewing platforms and seating for rest stops. When completed, for the first time, pedestrians and cyclists will be able to cross the Gateway Bridge between Murrarie and Eagle Farm, experiencing panoramic views previously only available to motorists.

These planned cycling facilities will help provide one of the missing links in the 150km Moreton Bay Cycleway. When completed, I am advised the Moreton Bay Cycleway will be the longest cycle route on Australia's east coast, stretching from Bribie Island in the north to Redland Bay in the south.