

Question on Notice

No. 294

Asked on 11 March 2008

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister (a) confirm the outcomes of his meeting with R.A.I.N and (b) following the report of the Ombudsman one year ago advise what actions the Main Roads Department has taken to improve the quality of life of residents living adjacent to the Pacific Motorway?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Gaven for the question. At the meeting, R.A.I.N representatives, Mr David Page and Mr Robert Rosenstrauss, outlined their ongoing concerns in relation to road traffic noise and the general safety of the Pacific Motorway. Both men expressed their dissatisfaction with the outcome of the report by the Queensland Ombudsman, tabled in this House a little over one year ago. Some information, gathered by their research, relating to concrete motorway surfaces was also presented to me, and I have undertaken to have Main Roads examine the material and report back to me with any findings. I also informed Mr Page and Mr Rosenstrauss that Main Roads has accepted, and either implemented, or is in the process of implementing, all 22 of the report's recommendations. I can also inform the Member for Gaven that statistical analysis of the safety record of the Pacific Motorway was presented to R.A.I.N., showing that it has a significantly lower accident rate, per million vehicle kilometres travelled, than any comparable road in Queensland.

In the Ombudsman's report the RACQ made the following observation about the safety performance of the M1: *"The crash data reveals that the overall safety performance on the Pacific Motorway (M1) has markedly improved since the upgrade: Killed and seriously injured and all injury crashes per 100M vehicle kms have reduced by at least four times since the upgrade, with over eight times less fatalities occurring over the selected five year periods."*

Main Roads also advise that the Queensland Police Service Traffic Branch made a similar observation regarding the concrete surface: *"He (Regional Coordinator of Traffic, South Coast Region) is not aware of any aquaplaning problems or other complaints due to wet weather/visibility problems on the motorway, or that aquaplaning is a problem to any greater extent than on any other road where there are sheets of water on the pavement during heavy rainfall events."*

On the matter of the actions Main Roads has undertaken since the Ombudsman's report was tabled, I can confirm, as mentioned above, the department either has, or is in the process of, implementing all 22 of the recommendations. Immediately following the release of the Ombudsman's report, Main Roads established the M1 Noise Treatment Project. I can advise the Member for Gaven that, to date, Main Roads has completed the

installation of air-conditioning units at 35 eligible properties. In addition, I can advise that 135 property owners have been provided with final agreements, and Main Roads is waiting for their signed approval before commencing work at their properties. I can further advise that ten of the original 180 identified property owners have declined treatment.

Main Roads expects the initial phase of the project to be completed, on schedule, by July 2008.

The second phase of the project is also well underway and I can advise that Main Roads is now identifying all properties within 300 metres of the motorway that have experienced a noise increase of between 2 and 3dba and will be offering those properties appropriate in-house noise treatment. Additional modelling is also being carried out within 300 metres to identify any properties that may have been excluded in the first phase.

Work is also continuing on modelling noise levels outside the 300 metre corridor. The project team has divided the corridor into six sections and the results of this modelling are expected to be available by the end of 2008. I can advise the Member for Gaven that priority is being given to the Helensvale/Studio Village area for this additional modelling.