Question on Notice

No.340

Asked on 12 March 2008

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

QUESTION:

1. Does his department monitor traffic volumes on the Burnett Highway between Biloela and Nanango?
2. What traffic figures are available for this highway for the past five years?
3. Do those traffic volume figures measure the increase in heavy truck traffic as well as the increase in traffic generally?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Callide for the question.

Planning for the future is a priority for the Department of Main Roads. In managing Queensland's largest community asset, the state-controlled road network, a number of aspects are considered including balancing economic, social and environmental outcomes.

To do this data on the 33,500 kilometres of state controlled roads is routinely collected and analysed. Data includes the type and nature of vehicles using the road, the traffic volumes and increases, and the purpose the road is most frequently used for, for example, freight or tourism. Traffic figures include light vehicles, heavy truck traffic, short vehicle, trucks, buses, articulated vehicles and road trains.

Traffic volumes on the Burnett Highway between Biloela and Nanango are collected annually. The traffic figures are recorded at various locations and comparisons in traffic volumes and percentage increases can be analysed.

For example, the 2007 traffic figures recorded 500m south of the Dawson Highway near Biloela show 2376 vehicles per day with about 9.54% heavy vehicles. Just north of the Bunya Highway intersection near Goomeri recorded 2461 vehicles per day with 14% heavy vehicles.

At other sections of the Burnett Highway the traffic figures are much smaller, for example at the intersection of Manumbar Road, about 45 kilometres north of Nanango, traffic figures drop to 892 vehicles per day with 15.56% heavy vehicles.

Likewise, growth in traffic volumes on the Burnett Highway recorded over a five-year period from 2002 to 2007 also varies. For example, just south of Ban Ban Springs a 1.99% growth is recorded compared to figures from 23 kilometres north of Gayndah near Zahls Road where there has been a 9.14% increase over five years.

Main Roads uses the traffic figures to identify priority projects and maintenance programs and then to allocate funds as highlighted in the Roads Implementation Program.