

Question on Notice

No. 409

Asked on 13 March 2008

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

QUESTION:

How much money has his department spent in the last three years on the Burnett Highway between Biloela and Nanango and what expenditure is planned for the next three years for this section of the highway and how will that expenditure be prioritised?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Callide for the question

The Burnett Highway between Biloela and Nanango links the inland towns of Monto, Eidsvold, Munduberra, Gayndah and Nanango and serves the communities of the north and south Burnett regions.

In August 2005, the state government announced a major Regional Bridge Renewal Program, committing \$350m over five years to replace over 100 bridges in regional Queensland.

Under this project \$26.61m has been allocated to replace six ageing timber bridges along the Burnett Highway. The new Philpott Creek bridge is already constructed, and the following bridges will be completed by September this year: Boonara Ck No. 4, Nangur Creek No. 2, Nangur Creek No. 3, Crooked Creek and Barambah Creek.

By replacing these ageing and obsolete bridges the state controlled road network will be able to accommodate current and future freight load demands.

The five year Roads Implementation Plan (RIP) identifies a five-year program of roads infrastructure projects for Main Roads to deliver to achieve the network outcomes identified in Roads Connecting Queenslanders, the department's strategic long-term document. The works identified in the RIP account for the bulk of Main Roads' expenditure.

In the current RIP, \$2 460 508.00 has been allocated over the next three years for upgrades to the Burnett Highway.

As well as the allocation Regional Bridge Renewal Program, from 2005 to 2008 a total of \$12.651m was spent upgrading the Burnett Highway. Projects included in this was a \$1.3m Safer Roads Sooner project to upgrade and realign the Burnett Highway and Bunya highway intersection.

The funding allocated under the State Labor Government compares with funding for the Burnett Highway between Biloela and Nanango provided in the RIP 1996-97 and 1997-98 financial years – which was \$6.258m.

Main Roads must carefully prioritise expenditure so that funds go to those works identified as being needed the most.

When deciding where money is spent, issues such as the volume and type of traffic, the strategic importance of the road, condition of the road and the safety record are all considered.

The department reviews its future program of works every year in consultation with local councils and other stakeholders.