

Question on Notice

No. 463

Asked on 15 April 2008

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

QUESTION:

With reference to population growth in and around the Springwood Electorate which contributes to congestion on our roads particularly the Pacific Motorway (M1) – What is the State Government doing to alleviate congestion on the M1, especially on the section from Eight Mile Plains to Loganholme?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Springwood for the question.

The Pacific Motorway is part of the AusLink National Network – the passenger and freight backbone of Australia's national land transport system. It is one of two major inter-regional corridors linking Queensland and New South Wales. As such it plays a significant role in the eastern seaboard freight network and is critically important to national and regional economic growth, development and connectivity. Investing in the infrastructure of the Pacific Motorway corridor will allow for growth in the fast-expanding Australia Trade Coast area including the Port of Brisbane, Brisbane Airport and various industrial estates in the surrounding areas.

A rapidly growing South East Queensland population and increasing traffic demands are impacting on the safety, efficiency and effectiveness of the Pacific Motorway as a major transport corridor. The expected continued reliance on road transport to handle the non-bulk passenger and freight tasks, particularly in urban areas, presents significant challenges for the Pacific Motorway. Inefficient motorway operations represent significant costs to the state and national economy. Costs include time spent in traffic, increased vehicle and fuel usage, inefficiency of freight operations and in turn Australia's trade competitiveness.

Through the Pacific Motorway Transit Project (PMTP), Main Roads and Queensland Transport (through TransLink) are planning improvements to 16 kilometres of the Pacific Motorway from Eight Mile Plains to Loganholme to improve the efficiency and safety of freight and passenger movements. The PMTP has been broken into three sections:

- Section A: Eight Mile Plains to Springwood south (6.3km)
- Section B: Springwood south to Daisy Hill, including the Loganlea Road Interchange (3.3km)
- Section C: Daisy Hill to Loganholme (6.9km).

The state government has provided \$455m for upgrading needs on the Pacific Motorway in Logan City and Gold Coast City from ARIP and SEQIPP funding initiatives.

The federal government has announced as an election commitment that it would match state government funding. This has resulted in a total commitment of \$910m for the Pacific Motorway from Eight Mile Plains to Tugun, \$490m of which has been allocated to the PMTP.

Upgrading Section B of the PMTP, including the heavily congested Loganlea Road Interchange, is the highest priority.

The project is planning to make the best use of the road space by encouraging alternative and sustainable modes of transport within the road corridor. These improvements include:

- two new transit lanes which will:
 - encourage car-pooling
 - provide another alternative transport option and
 - save travel time.
- connections to two new bus lanes will be constructed as part of Section A in the near future (currently unfunded), which will:
 - give bus users a faster and more reliable journey (this aligns with the strategic objectives in TransLink's network plan) and
 - help to reduce congestion by drawing commuters from the general purpose road network.
- the V1 Bikeway which will:
 - promote an active and healthy lifestyle
 - provide a high quality cycle link between Brisbane and the Gold Coast and
 - provide an environmentally friendly travel option.
- the Loganlea Road Interchange upgrade which will:
 - reduce delays on Loganlea Road and adjacent service roads
 - improve safety at intersections and at the motorway on and off ramps and
 - improve pedestrian and cycle connections.

Queensland Transport will provide the funding for the civil construction works related to the Paradise Road Park'n'Ride facility and will fund and construct the bus station infrastructure works under a separate contract.

Tenders have been called for Section B of the PMTP and it is expected that stage one contracts will be awarded in early July 2008. It is anticipated that construction will commence in late 2008/early 2009 with completion in late 2010.

Planning for Section A of the PMTP has been completed and the necessary land acquisitions are nearing completion. At this point in time there have been no funds allocated for the construction of Section A.

Planning for Section C of the PMTP is currently underway and community consultation has commenced. It is anticipated that construction of this section won't commence until beyond 2015.