

## Question on Notice

No.551

Asked on 17 April 2008

**Mr Hobbs** asked the Minister for Main Roads and Local Government (MR PITT) -

### QUESTION:

With reference to the Department of Main Roads road closures and imposed load limits imposed as a result of the rains in the early part of 2008 –

Will he advise in relation to the restrictions still in place of the following (reported separately on a road by road basis) (a) when an assessment of the damage was conducted by his department, (b) if that assessment included determining if temporary works ie detours would be sufficient to re-open the road or remove the load limit, (c) what works are proposed to re-open each of the roads, (d) when these proposed works will be completed and (e) the estimated cost of these proposed works and under which State or Federal Government program these funds will be provided?

### ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Warrego for the question.

Large sections of the state-controlled road network were saturated by widespread flooding earlier this year. Main Roads undertook inspections and testing to re-open affected roads and bridges when flood waters receded. The department seeks to balance protection of the road asset with community and industry access needs.

Temporary load restrictions were applied to some key state-controlled links due to flooding. The majority of these load restrictions have now been lifted

Restrictions are still in place on the following links:

#### **Bajool – Port Alma Road**

An assessment of damage was conducted on the Bajool – Port Alma Road in the Fitzroy Region on 18 February 2008. The assessment placed a restriction on excess mass and excess width vehicles. Legal mass and dimension vehicles were not restricted; Port Alma operations (primarily salt and ammonium nitrate explosives) were unaffected.

Temporary works were not considered, due to the moderate nature of the restriction and the terrain – low embankment over saturated coastal salt flats.

Pavement stabilisation was used as a treatment to remove the excess mass/width restriction, with works being completed by 12 May 2008.

The estimated cost of these works is \$450 000.

#### **Peninsula Developmental Road – Lakeland to Weipa**

Following heavy rainfall, an inspection during the Christmas-New Year period indicated the road was no longer able to carry heavy vehicles and a 25 tonne load limit was put in place on 4 January, 2008. Continuing rain weakened the pavement even more and a 5 tonne load limit was put in place on 8 January 2008.

The road, north of Coen, was closed due to flooding at Archer River on 6 February 2008, and the section, north of Lakeland, was closed on 11 February 2008 due to flooding of the Laura River. The first inspection was able to be made in the first week of March 2008.

Signage was placed at hazards and the road opened on 12 March 2008 to vehicles less than 5 tonne which could negotiate the hazards. Maintenance work on the access grade was undertaken throughout March, with detours put in place around damaged drainage structures to enable opening to heavy vehicles.

This work enabled the lifting of the load limit to 25 tonne from Lakeland to Coen and 5 tonne from Coen to Weipa on 27 March 2008. Access works continued on the road with lifting of the load limit to 25 tonne from Coen to Weipa on 14 April 2008.

During this time, permits were issued to heavy vehicles up to 32 tonne carting essential goods, north to Archer River.

After the lifting of the load limit, permits were issued to enable multi-combination vehicles to travel to Archer River. The Myal Creek Bridge 25 tonne load limit was in place on the road to Weipa until the heavy vehicle bypass was opened on 19 April 2008.

The access grade with temporary works and detours around damaged drainage structures allowed a staged opening to heavy vehicles. The road was fully opened with no load limits at noon on 30 April 2008. Permits continue to be issued for heavy vehicles carting essential goods until access works are completed and shoulders have dried out enough to allow the safe opening of the road to all vehicles.

The estimated cost of these works is \$6.5m.

#### **Burke Developmental Road - Chillagoe to Dunbar**

Again, following heavy rainfall, an inspection during the Christmas – New Year period indicated the road was no longer able to carry heavy vehicles and a 25 tonne load limit was put in place on 4 January 2008. Continuing rain weakened the pavement even more, and the road was closed due to flooding of local rivers and impassable black soil sections on 10 January 2008.

The first inspection was done from Chillagoe to Mareeba Shire boundary at Dunbar in mid-March by helicopter, in conjunction with Mareeba Shire flood inspectors.

Even though river heights were reported to be dropping, water still covered a lot of the road, and the first road inspection was not carried out until the second week of April 2008.

Signage was put in place and the road opened to vehicles 5 tonne on 18 April 2008. Work then started on the road, including temporary works to damaged drainage structures, to allow opening to heavy vehicles.

This work allowed permits to be issued for heavy vehicles carrying essential fuel and goods from early May.

The access grade, with temporary works and detours around damaged drainage structures, has allowed a staged opening to heavy vehicles. The road has been opened up to Wrotham Park for 5 tonne to 44 tonne vehicles. Load limitations will be reviewed in the week commencing 19 May 2008.

The estimated cost of these works is \$3.2m.

## **Gregory Developmental Road - The Lynd, through Einasleigh to the Gulf Developmental Road**

An inspection in the second week of February 2008 indicated the road was no longer able to carry heavy vehicles and a 25 tonne load limit was put in place on 15 February 2008. This has remained in place.

Work has started on the access grade, with temporary works and detours around damaged drainage structures, to allow a staged opening to heavy vehicles. The road has now been opened to vehicles with a 25 tonne limit, and is expected to be fully opened in the week commencing 19 May 2008.

The estimated cost of these works is \$3.2m.

The above works were funded through Natural Disaster Relief and Restoration Arrangements (NDRRA), which are jointly funded by the state and federal governments.