Question on Notice

No. 583

Asked on Thursday 17 April 2008

Mrs Attwood asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (MR LUCAS)—

QUESTION:

How many projects are under way or have been completed since the release of the SEQ Infrastructure Plan in 2005?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Mount Ommaney for her question.

1. The *South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan and Program* (SEQIPP) outlines this government's infrastructure priorities in the region until 2026, totalling an estimated $82 billion of investment.
2. Updated each year, the latest version of SEQIPP was released on 29 May 2007. A review of SEQIPP is currently being undertaken in readiness for the 2008 release in June.
3. The current version of the plan includes more than 450 projects, covering transport, water, energy, and social and community infrastructure with a current value of $56.1 billion. More than 63 per cent of this investment relates to transport (roads, rail and public transport) and 9 per cent of this investment relates to water infrastructure. The 450 programs and projects listed in SEQIPP translate into more than 600 on the ground initiatives currently being tracked and monitored by the Department of Infrastructure and Planning.
4. I am pleased to advise delivery of the SEQ Infrastructure Plan is tracking well – with spending as at 31 December 2007 over $8 billion.
5. Currently, there are over 390 projects underway, including:
   a. $1.88 billion Gateway Bridge duplication;
   b. $543 million Tugun Bypass project, which is six months ahead of schedule;
   c. $9 billion SEQ Water Grid including Western Corridor Recycled Water Project; and
   d. $493 million Inner Northern Busway.
6. The SEQ Infrastructure Plan has already delivered real results to the community, with over 160 projects complete. Attached is a list of some of the key projects that have been completed in the program to date.

ATTACHMENT

Transport

- The $327m rail program on the Gold Coast, delivering 31km of additional rail tracks. This program included three stages (Ormeau to Coomera, Salisbury to Kuraby and Helensvale to Robina) and allows for more express trains between Brisbane city and the Gold Coast, greatly improving the level of service provided between these key hubs.
- The $108 million Bruce Highway Upgrade at Boundary Road to Uhlmann Road, completed in March 2007. This section of the highway carries more than 76,000 vehicles a day, 12 per cent of them commercial; making it one of Queensland's major freight routes. The completion of this project has enhanced transport efficiency, reduced congestion, improved safety and allowed for the continued growth in one of the fastest growing areas of the state.
- The $32 million Centenary Highway – Boundary Road underpass was completed in August 2007. Since completion, the underpass has enhanced transport efficiency and reduced congestion in the area.
- Construction of additional lanes on the Nerang – Broadbeach Road from Allambie Gardens to Neilsens Road was completed in September 2007 at a cost of $42 million. This upgrade had been in use since October 2007, five months ahead of schedule.
- The $35 million Mooloolaba to Peregian section of the Sunshine Motorway was completed in November 2007. As part of these works the new Maroochy Boulevard Interchange was constructed to provide direct access to the Maroochydore CBD.
- The $14 million Caboolture Northern Bypass was completed in December 2007. Completing this connection of the D'Aguilar Highway to the Bruce Highway has significantly reduced congestion through Caboolture.
- The $13.3 million bus station program, as part of the Inner Northern Busway, delivered the Royal Children's Hospital and Normanby bus stations. Since completion, the two bus stations have significantly enhanced the accessibility and connectivity of these key areas.

Water

- Construction of the Western Corridor Recycled Water Project, the largest recycled water project in Australia, had its first stage commissioned in August 2007. The project, when completed in December 2008, will supply up to 232 megalitres per day of purified recycled water with the capacity to increase to 310 megalitres per day when more wastewater becomes available.
- Other projects completed, or nearing completion, on the $9 billion South East Queensland Water Grid include the Southern Regional Water Pipeline and the Gold Coast Desalination Plant which are due to finish construction at the end of 2008.

Education

- The $81.6 million first stage of the Acacia Ridge TAFE opened in December 2006. The campus' first students started in carpentry, floor laying/finishing and roof tiling, with other student faculties to transfer in phases up to 2009. By 2009, trades training offered at existing TAFE institutes in Brisbane will gradually be transferred to facilities at Acacia Ridge and Eagle Farm.
- Meridan State College opened its doors to 269 students in January 2006. Framed by rainforest, the college services Caloundra's western suburbs and caters for students from Prep to Year 6.
- Burpengary Meadows State School opened its doors to 280 Prep to Year 7 students in January 2007 and has already grown to include approximately 350 children. The first stage will meet the needs of the rapidly growing Burpengary-Narangba area.
- Construction of Springfield Lakes State School was also completed in time for the 2007 school year. With 16 classrooms, the school is an integral part of a newly developing suburb that attracts many families with young children.
- Coomera Springs State School welcomed its first students in January 2008. With innovative and environmentally sensitive design features, the school can currently cater for up to 332 students and by 2009, will have capacity for over 1100 students.

Health

- The first stage of the Prince Charles Hospital redevelopment was completed in February 2007 at a cost of $134 million. This first stage of redevelopment includes a new emergency department, surgical wards, two operating theatres, medical wards and three nine-bed intensive care unit pods.

Justice

- The Sandgate Courthouse was completed in September 2007 at a cost of $4.7 million. Just six months after the main foundation was poured, Sandgate's new courthouse opened its doors for business. In addition to the magistrates court, the complex provides a mediation room, registry office, interview rooms, public waiting rooms and a secure link to the adjacent police station for the transfer of prisoners.

Regional sport and recreation

- A section of the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail from Linville to Moore opened in November 2007. Based on the disused Brisbane Valley Railway line, this new section extended the existing 23 kilometre section from Blackbutt to Linville by an additional 7 kilometres. Once completed in 2012, the multi-use recreational trail trial will be the longest in Australia.
- The Gold Coast Football Stadium at Robina was completed in December 2007 at a cost of $160 million. With seating for 25,000 spectators, the new home of the Gold Coast Titans provides an ideal venue for sporting and entertainment events.