

**Question on Notice**

**No. QON1391**

**Asked on 6 October 2009**

MR SHANE KNUTH asked the Minister for Main Roads (MR WALLACE) -

**QUESTION:**

Given there are seven overtaking lanes on the 88km stretch of the Bruce Highway from Townsville to Ayr but only one on the heavily trafficked 137kms of Flinders Highway from Charters Towers to Townsville, Will the Minister commit to providing additional overtaking lanes and advise when they will be delivered?

**ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for Dalrymple for the question.

The Flinders Highway is part of the National Land Transport Network within Queensland.

The federal government currently allocates funds to that portion of the national network that comprised the former National Highway network which includes the Bruce Highway. As the Flinders Highway did not comprise a part of the former National Highway network, the federal government has not provided funding for this link over the next five years.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads has medium to long-term priorities for the Flinders Highway in order to meet future traffic demands. These include improving overtaking opportunities on the highway over the next five to ten years. Hence, state government funding is currently the only available source of funds for upgrading and maintaining this important road link.

The department is currently undertaking a planning study to review the Townsville to Charters Towers link for deficiencies and to define an investment strategy that will be considered in the development of future Roads Implementation Programs.