

Question on Notice

No. 1504

Asked on Thursday 8 October 2009

MR GIBSON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR MAIN ROADS (MR WALLACE)—

QUESTION:

As the road toll in the Gympie Electorate is of great concern to many with the Bruce Highway continuing to take lives—

Will the Minister provide a breakdown (by quarter) of Road Safety Initiative Program funding expended in the Gympie Electorate in 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Gympie for the question.

The Minister for Transport is the lead Minister for road safety. However I can advise that a record \$3.53 billion in roads capital funding has been provided in the 2009-10 State Budget to better connect Queensland, improve road safety and preserve the road asset for years to come.

As you are aware, the Bruce Highway is part of the National Land Transport Network, which is funded by the federal government.

The federal government has provided:

- \$488 million to construct the first section of the Bruce Highway upgrade between Cooroy and Curra. The state has also contributed \$125 million to this project.
- \$70.8 million for the four-lane upgrade through Gympie, which is well underway and expected to be completed by mid-2010.
- \$2.8 million to install intelligent transport technology as part of a joint initiative by the state and federal governments to reduce crashes between Cooroy and Gympie.

In addition to these projects, which all improve road safety, there are a number of road funding programs that specifically target road safety. These include the Safer Roads Sooner Program (state funded), the Black Spot Program (federally funded) and the Safety Initiative Program (part of the federal government's Nation Building Program).

Projects for the Safety Initiative Program have not yet been approved by the federal government, although it is expected that this will happen in the near future.

Funds expended under the Safer Roads Sooner Program in the Gympie Electorate are as follows:

- \$95 000 for 2006-07
- \$1.16 million for 2007-08
- \$1.01 million for 2008-09
- \$613 000 for 2009-10 (to September 2009), with \$1.07 million allocated over the full year.

Under the federal government's Black Spot Program, \$133,000 was spent in the 2007-08 financial year. \$40 000 in Black Spot funding has been allocated to traffic calming at the intersection of Ada, Power and Berrie Streets. This project has commenced and is expected to be completed by the end of 2009. \$276 000 in Black Spot funding has been approved for a project to install traffic signals at the intersection of Mt Pleasant Road, Johns Street and Hilton Road. This project has not commenced yet.

The state government has provided details of recommended black spot projects on the Bruce Highway to the federal government, for funding in 2009-10 under the Nation Building Program.

I will continue to make representations to the federal government for funding to upgrade and improve the safety of the Bruce Highway.