

Question on Notice

No. 1738

Asked on Wednesday 11 November 2009

MS JOHNSTONE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR MAIN ROADS (MR WALLACE)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how many jobs are being sustained in the North Queensland region through the Bligh Government's record roads capital expenditure program?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Townsville for the question.

The North Queensland region will benefit from a \$376 million roads program over the next two years. This massive infrastructure spend will help sustain an average of 1550 jobs in North Queensland over the coming year.

In addition to this job figure, the Australian and Queensland government's \$190 million funded Major Natural Disaster Recovery and Relief Arrangements (NDRRA) Program will sustain many more jobs through the multiple projects it will deliver in two years. Works underway include the Kennedy Developmental Road, the Gregory Developmental Road, the Palmerston Highway and the Bruce Highway between Townsville and Cairns.

The focus on direct and indirect employment figures are from significant projects currently being planned or under construction throughout the region.

In the Townsville district, projects such as the \$190 million Federal and State government-funded Townsville Port Access Road (TPAR) will sustain around 960 direct and indirect jobs over the life of the project. TPAR will provide a dedicated route to the port for industrial traffic, reducing the number of heavy vehicles travelling through the heart of the city.

The \$59.4 million North Ward Road upgrade project was opened to traffic on schedule in October 2009. The three-phase project connects Townsville's western suburbs to the city. It is designed to reduce local congestion and improve traffic flow for motorists using the major arterial road to access the Townsville CBD. The upgrade is on budget and has created an estimated 464 direct and indirect jobs over the life of the project.

On the vital Gregory Developmental Road between Charters Towers and The Lynd, a \$24.5 million upgrade covering 36.8 kilometres will sustain an estimated 180 direct and indirect jobs.

Overall, this government's record \$18 billion roads program will keep an average of 30,000 Queenslanders in jobs.