

Question on Notice

No. 1980

Asked on Wednesday 6 October 2010

MR MCLINDON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT (MS NOLAN)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister investigate the possibility of the construction of dedicated moped lanes alongside major arterial road networks within a 10 kilometre radius of Brisbane's CBD?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Beaudesert for the question.

Construction of dedicated moped lanes alongside major arterial road networks is common practice in a number of Asian cities where mopeds and motorcycles form a very high proportion of traffic, as high as 60% in some cities.

In Brisbane, mopeds form a very small proportion of traffic at the moment – much less than one percent. Whilst this figure is rising, it is still too low to warrant the provision of dedicated infrastructure. The Member may be interested to learn that there are more trips made by bicycle within 10 kilometres of the Brisbane CBD than by moped. As such, the Queensland Government invests over \$15 million in cycling infrastructure each year in Brisbane alone. For these reasons, there are no current plans for the provision of specific lanes for mopeds.

However, the Queensland Government takes the safety and access of moped users seriously. Mopeds, like motorcycles, can use transit lanes. This offers moped riders a good level of separation from general traffic on many arterial roads.

It is also important to note that the state government controls few roads within 10 kilometres of the Brisbane CBD. The South East Freeway is the main one and mopeds are prohibited from using freeways and motorways for safety reasons. This is because there is a high speed differential between mopeds and other vehicles. Mopeds are motorbikes that have a manufacturer's top rated speed of 50km/h and have either an engine capacity of 50mL or an electric motor.

Nevertheless, the Member for Beaudesert may wish to pursue this matter with Brisbane City Council which controls the vast majority of the roads within a 10 kilometre radius of the Brisbane CBD.