

Question on Notice

No. 294

Asked on 22 March 2011

MR DAVID GIBSON MP asked the Minister for Main Roads, Fisheries and Marine Infrastructure (MR WALLACE) -

QUESTION:

With reference to recent flooding which inundated and closed the Bruce Highway north and south of Gympie leaving the city unable to receive essential supplies via its main route, and as on 13 January 2011, a 33 single semi-trailer convoy with Police escort was arranged to travel along sealed and unsealed section of the Kin Kin Road (141) to deliver essential goods –

Will the Minister confirm the importance of sealing this section of the Kin Kin Road and commit that it will be given a higher priority in future Roads Implementation Programs in recognition that this road has been used as a vital link during flooding events?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Gympie for the question.

As you would be aware, the rainfall received during the recent flooding event throughout Queensland has been the heaviest experienced in many years. Our 33,000km road network – the state's single biggest piece of infrastructure – took more damage than any other government asset during the flooding.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads ensured all resources and crews were made available to inspect and reopen the vital highways and roads crucial to economic recovery as soon as it was safe. All levels of government worked together to manage the impact and ensure essential goods and services reaches those in need.

The *Queensland Transport and Roads Infrastructure Program 2010-11 to 2013-14* (QTRIP) highlights the Department of Transport and Main Roads' commitment to Queensland's transport and road infrastructure needs.

QTRIP allocates \$16.5 million to upgrade the unsealed section of Kin Kin Road at Wolvi.

The proposed project will upgrade the last remaining 4.2km gravel section to a two lane sealed standard including realigning the road through the Noonan Range.

Planning is almost complete and detailed design is expected to start by the end 2011, with construction dates to be finalised once design work has been completed.