

Question on Notice

No. 349

Asked on 23 March 2011

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise details of the recent announcement by the Premier for greater funding for the federally funded Warrego Highway in James Street, and Bridge and Tor Streets in Toowoomba.

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Toowoomba North for the question.

The Queensland Government will invest \$11 million to upgrade four key intersections on the federally-funded Warrego Highway (James, Tor and Bridge Streets) through Toowoomba.

The Warrego Highway through Toowoomba is an essential strategic route for freight and passenger transport and is the gateway to the burgeoning energy sector in the Surat Basin. It carries about 32,000 vehicles each day through Toowoomba with about 3500 of those heavy vehicles.

Improvements will be made at the James Street intersections with Geddes, Hume and Neil Streets as well as the intersection of Bridge and Tor Streets.

The works include:

- Warrego Highway (James Street) and Geddes Street intersection – works to improve lane layouts to provide for right-turn lanes from the Warrego Highway into Geddes Street
- Warrego Highway (James Street) and Hume Street (New England Highway) – works to extend turn lanes, install slip lanes or upgrade traffic signals to improve safety at this intersection
- Warrego Highway (James Street) and Neil Street – works to extend turn lanes, install slip lanes or upgrade traffic signals at Neil Street
- Warrego Highway (Bridge Street and Tor Street intersection) – works to improve the safety of right-turn movements and the left-turn slip lane for Warrego Highway

These improvements will boost safety by making the intersections operate more efficiently and smoothly for all road users.

Work on the intersections is expected to start early 2012 and be completed early 2013.