

Question on Notice

No. 700

Asked on Thursday, 12 May 2011

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide information on the VEC Centre, including the re-building of the centre post the 2011 floods, by the Origin Alliance, builders of the Ipswich Motorway project?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Bundamba for the question.

As the Member will be well aware, the \$1.95 billion federally funded upgrade of the 8 kilometre section of the Ipswich Motorway currently underway between Dinmore and Goodna is of great interest to motorists and local residents alike.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads established Origin Alliance to deliver the upgrade and the alliance opened a Visitors Experience Centre (VEC) at its Redbank site office last year as part of its overall commitment to keeping the community informed about this complex project.

The VEC allows visitors to experience the project first hand, hear from experts and find out what is happening behind the scenes. Displays guide visitors through the whole process of road building, from planning to completion, with a focus on how the project is solving traffic, safety and environmental challenges.

Visitors also learn about the area's rich indigenous and mining history, how the project manages traffic during construction, how they protect the local environment and why ensuring the safety of workers and road users is so important.

Sadly, the VEC was inundated during the devastating January 2011 floods. Fortunately it has been rebuilt over recent months and the Alliance has taken the opportunity to update its content. There is a new tunnel section, more information on bridge building and career opportunities, a revamped Kid's Zone and information about the flood and the community recovery effort.

The VEC was officially reopened on 4 May 2011 and a community education program is now underway to maximise its use by local residents, schools and community groups during the remainder of the project.

VEC bookings and guided public bus tours of the project can be arranged through the project's Community Engagement Team by phoning 1800 465 682.