

Question on Notice

No. 926

Asked on Tuesday, 14 June 2011

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise what measures the State Government has taken to improve conditions on the Warrego Highway in recent times?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Toowoomba North for the question.

The following works are either planned or underway on the Warrego Highway:

- The Department of Transport and Main Roads is continuing to deliver a \$70 million program to improve safety on the Warrego Highway between Ipswich and Withcott. From 2008, the Warrego Highway Safety Improvement program is delivering a number of road safety improvements including intersection upgrades, guardrail installations, safety audits, intersection signage, removal of roadside obstacles and minor drainage works.
- The department has also finalised the concept design for a \$70 million upgrade to the Warrego Highway and Brisbane Valley Highway intersection at Blacksoil. The project has now commenced the detailed design phase for the proposed upgrade.
- \$2.9 million will be spent in 2010-11 and a further \$2.621 million in 2011-12 on road safety improvements including guardrails, signage and line marking between Ipswich and Withcott.
- The department has spent approximately \$33 million on flood recovery works since January 2011 on the Warrego Highway from Ipswich to Withcott and it is estimated an additional \$209 million will be spent over the next three years (2011-12 and 2013-14) for pavement restoration.
- \$96 million was recently announced to four-lane a six kilometre section of the highway from Nugents Pinch Road on the western outskirts of Toowoomba to Leeson Road, east of Gowrie Mountain. As part of the project, improvements will also be made to several significant intersections along this section of the highway.
- \$12 million has been allocated to improve the flood immunity on the Warrego Highway between Macalister and Warra, which will be carried out in conjunction with National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) restoration work on the highway. When completed, the upgrade will widen this 13 kilometre section of the highway to 10 metres wide.

- \$11 million provided to upgrade four key intersections on the highway (James Street) through Toowoomba. 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.
- A \$2 million project to widen a 1.4 kilometre section of the Warrego highway east of Oakey, between Brimblecombe and Henningsen Roads, to provide a westbound overtaking lane to improve safety and efficiency of the highway is underway.
- \$82.46 million to repair flood damage on the Warrego Highway east of Roma will start this month (June 2011). The reconstruction work, also part of Operation Queenslander, will involve 26 various sections, totalling 90 kilometres of work, between Jackson and Roma.
- A high priority for the south-west region is the upgrading of the Warrego highway between Roma and Mitchell. \$55 million has been committed to the highway, including \$40 million for widening and strengthening works to benefit industry and allow Type 2 (up to 53 metres long) road trains closer to Roma and the cattle saleyards. Work is nearing completion on the first stage. A \$7.1 million second stage widening project at Amby township, 65 kilometres west of Roma is due to commence in November 2011.
- \$1.6 million to upgrade a one kilometre section of the Warrego Highway, east of Charleville, to improve safety and also accommodate Type 2 road trains in the future.

The Warrego Highway sustained extensive damage during the January 2011 rain event. While emergency repairs have been carried out on this major freight and motorist route, the department has sought funding through the federal NDRRA arrangements to reinstate the damaged pavement sections on the Warrego Highway to current engineering standards. The ongoing restoration works on the Warrego Highway will be carried out in addition to routine maintenance and safety improvement projects scheduled for the roadway.