

Question on Notice

No. 429

Asked on Wednesday, 5 June 2013

MRS CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (MR EMERSON)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the railway line between Calliope, Monto and towns south, is there any proposal to close or remove the line?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Gladstone for the question.

The rail line from Mungar through Monto to Taragoola was officially closed by the State Government on 30 June 2012. After further review, the infrastructure will now be removed as current infrastructure cannot meet any future freight requirements. However, the state will retain ownership of the corridor for potential future transport purposes.

The line had not seen rail traffic since 2008 and parts of the corridor also suffered significant damage during the 2011 floods.

Closing this line will deliver ongoing savings to the State of up to \$1 million per annum via a reduction in maintenance costs.

The rail line north from Taragoola through Calliope to Graham remains open and supports limestone rail freight traffic.

In order to address community concerns, stop signs at level crossings on the closed line have been replaced with give way signs to negate the need for motorists to stop at an unused rail crossing. This is an interim measure until the infrastructure is removed.

In the next few months the removal of rail infrastructure will commence, with sections in local townships a priority.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads and Queensland Rail are working with the Local Councils to identify any assets on the closed line of value to the local community which could be transferred to council ownership.

The line is approximately 400km and the total asset removal task is expected to take several years.