

Question on Notice

No. 458

Asked on Thursday, 6 June 2013

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise when overtaking lanes will be put in place on the Kennedy Highway, Tolga to Mareeba Road, to provide a safer transport route?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Dalrymple for the question.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads' (TMR) focus for the Kennedy Highway is to maintain and improve, where possible, the existing two lane-highway. Due to the urgent need to fund reconstruction works, coupled with the legacy of debt left by the previous Labor government, there is currently no funding in the current program for construction of overtaking lanes between Tolga and Mareeba.

In the next financial year TMR will be preparing business cases to seek funding for future works on the Kennedy Highway. Overtaking lanes will be a planning priority.

Safety of all road users is paramount and as always, we encourage drivers to only overtake vehicles when line marking permits and it is safe to do so. We also encourage all motorists to drive to the conditions and be aware of their actions and of others.

The condition of the road surface on the Kennedy Highway has improved greatly in the past three years due to the completion of a number of road widening and flood damage repair works. These works have improved travelling conditions and safety for road users driving between Atherton, Tolga and Mareeba.

Reconstruction works completed in 2013 include:

- A \$4.92 million project to reconstruct a 2.4km section between Morganbury Road and Channel Road. These works involved repairing damaged sections and some minor realignment works and were funded under Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).
- Reconstruction of a 1.35km section of the Kennedy Highway at Tolga was also funded under NDRRA. These works involved repairing damaged sections and applying asphalt to strengthen the road surface.