

Question on Notice

No. 560

Asked on Tuesday, 20 August 2013

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the project work being undertaken by LDI on the Gulf Development Road which the Etheridge Shire Council was advised last week that the work had been cancelled—

Will the Minister advise what is happening to the unfinished projects, and whether LDI will pay the local businesses and contractors for work done?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Mount Isa for the question.

I am pleased to advise that reconstruction works on sections of the Gulf Developmental Road, between Mt Surprise and Georgetown, are continuing to repair damage from the 2010-11 summer of disasters.

This project is delivering great outcomes by reconnecting communities, creating job opportunities and stimulating regional economies like Georgetown and Mt Surprise.

About 12km of flood-damaged road has already been repaired resulting in a better road surface and safer, improved travelling conditions on this important link.

Work is continuing on another 6km of flood-damaged road which is expected to be completed by early November 2013, weather permitting.

Reviews of works are undertaken on a regular basis to ensure works comply with the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) guidelines and provide value for money.

As a result, minor design changes have been made to the remaining works to reduce costs while maintaining acceptable standards.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has kept the contractor well informed of the design changes.

TMR expects contractors to pay local businesses, sub-contractors and suppliers for work done in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contract. I understand that this has been done since work started in June 2012. No issues have been raised with TMR in Cairns, to date.

This project is one of many being delivered in the Far North region under the joint federal and state government funded NDRRA program.