

**Question on Notice**

**No. 626**

**Asked on Tuesday, 10 September 2013**

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

**QUESTION:**

What funding has the Federal Government allocated for the construction of the Cunningham Highway/Amberley intersection and when is construction due to commence?

**ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for Lockyer for the question.

The Cunningham Highway is on the National Land Transport Network, for which the federal government has primary funding responsibility.

The intersection of the Cunningham Highway and Ipswich-Rosewood Road, to the west of Ipswich, provides the main access point to Australia's largest operational military air base, the RAAF Base Amberley. This intersection has increasingly become a 'pinch point' for motorists and has experienced deterioration in levels of safety and service, the result of expansion at the military air base, increased interstate freight movements and general increases in private and commercial vehicles.

In October 2012, the Queensland Government submitted the Yamanto to Ebenezer / Amberley Upgrade (Cunningham Highway/Amberley intersection) project for funding consideration under the next round of the Nation Building Program, from 2014-15 to 2018-19. The project was also submitted to Infrastructure Australia for assessment in August 2012.

The project will support the rapid expansion of military and related industry development in the area, provide for improved interstate freight movements and markedly improve overall levels of safety for all road users, both for the medium and long-term.

To date, the Queensland Government has spent \$11.9 million on planning and business case development to progress this project for federal funding consideration. The total estimated cost of the proposed project is \$345 million (P90, out-turn). Timing for construction is subject to available federal funding and agreement with the Department of Defence over land requirements. The project is anticipated to take two years to complete.

The Queensland Government will work closely with the incoming Australian Government to secure an early funding commitment for this nationally significant project.