

Question on Notice

No. 250

Asked on Tuesday, 1 April 2014

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister explain the criteria for schools to receive flashing school zone lights?

ANSWER:

I thank the member for Kallangur for his question.

The Queensland Government has allocated \$10 million over four years for the installation of flashing school zone signs. This is in addition to funds being provided to install flashing school zone signs at all split campus schools and at all existing school zones on multi-lane roads.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads has developed a school zone risk assessment methodology to prioritise schools to receive the flashing school zone signs. There are five factors that influence the risk of injury to a child pedestrian. These factors, which are included in the methodology, are speed limit, traffic volume, road width, number of conflicting directions of traffic and formal crossing facilities. Other data that is also considered includes visibility at the crossing point, the type of school, 85th percentile speeds and crash data in the vicinity of schools. Using all this data, school zones are scored and ranked from highest to lowest risk.

In recognition of the importance of local knowledge of the dangers at school zones, I have also asked all Members of Parliament to nominate schools that would benefit from the flashing school zone signs. These nominations are considered in conjunction with the schools that rank highly when deciding which schools will receive flashing school zone signs.

Flashing school zone signs are also installed at all split campus schools. Where split campuses exist, the road safety risk to the school children is increased as children are regularly crossing the road during the day. The risk can be minimised by the installation of flashing school zone signs. All split campus schools in Queensland have a school zone with flashing school zone signs that operate from 7am to 4pm. Any school zone on a multi-lane road will also have a flashing school zone installed due to the increased risk to students on these busier roads.