

Question on Notice

No. 260

Asked on 2 April 2014

MR WATTS asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (MR SEENEY) –

QUESTION:

Will the Deputy Premier provide a progress report and update for all of the Royalties for the Regions projects being undertaken in Toowoomba?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Toowoomba North for his question.

Toowoomba Regional Council has had \$61.8 million approved through the Royalties for the Regions program for two road projects, a railway bridge and a flood mitigation project.

The O'Mara Road upgrade had \$10 million approved from Royalties for the Regions. The road will link the Charlton Wellcamp Enterprise Area with the Warrego Highway. This project will increase traffic capacity, including for heavy vehicles, and improve road safety. It will also provide better access to the Charlton Wellcamp Enterprise Area. Transport accessibility is important for investment attraction for the Enterprise Area, which is developing as an economic hub for the region.

Construction on O'Mara Road is expected to commence early this month.

Royalties for the Regions is contributing \$45 million to the Outer Circulating Road–Victoria Street extension. This project is part of the broader Outer Circulating Road project which will ease traffic pressure, by providing local traffic an alternative route away from the CBD. The Royalties for the Regions contribution will construct a new four lane road, extending Victoria Street from Russell Street to Ruthven Street at the Chalk Drive intersection.

Construction on the Outer Circulating Road started in November 2013, and is on track for completion by December 2014.

The West Creek Railway Bridge project is receiving \$5 million from Royalties for the Regions. The project will construct a new three span bridge over West Creek near Dent and Harries Streets. This project will increase flood immunity. Currently, the project is in the design phase with construction planned to start in early June 2014.

The flood mitigation drainage works in Goggs Street are a component of Toowoomba's broader flood mitigation strategy works. The project is receiving \$1.8 million from Royalties for the Regions. The project will reduce the risk of significant overland flow in this area, helping to protect 98 homes and 37 businesses from inundation. Construction commenced earlier this year and is due for completion by December 2014.

These projects demonstrate the better infrastructure the Royalties for the Regions program delivers. It ensures the royalties earned by the resources sector are shared with Queensland's regional communities to provide critical community infrastructure.