

Question on Notice

No. 376

Asked on 20 May 2014

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

QUESTION:

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

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Warrego for his question.

As you are aware the Royalties for the Regions program is designed to ensure regional communities receive real, long-term benefits through investment in infrastructure. The program's main focus is on supporting infrastructure projects that respond to critical community needs that have resulted from resource sector activity.

There is no doubt the communities which you represent are experiencing the pressures and opportunities of resource sector growth.

To date the Queensland Government has invested \$43.6 million through the Royalties for the Regions program in 26 projects in the Warrego electorate.

The recently completed St George Flood Mitigation Levee – Stage Two is an example of this government's commitment to building a stronger, more resilient Queensland. The new levee will ensure the safety and structural integrity of homes, infrastructure (both private and public), and businesses that have previously been subject to seasonal flooding. The levee is designed to withstand a flood even higher than the 2012 event.

In addition to this, up to 500 homes and businesses in Roma stand to be better protected thanks to the construction of stage one of the Roma Flood Levee. The levee, which will span 5.2 kilometres and stand four metres tall in its highest section, is being built to withstand a once-in-1000 years flood event. Funded largely by the Queensland Government, the project is due to be completed by the end of October 2014.

The Maranoa Water Augmentation Project is close to completion. Construction on the 150 millimetre main, bore upgrade and new standpipe facility in Injune, and stage one of the Surat Water Treatment Plant upgrade are now complete. The final component of this project, stage two of the Surat Water Treatment Plant upgrade, is on schedule for completion by 30 June 2014.

The Roma Sewerage Augmentation Project is on track for completion in July 2014. This project will upgrade the current infrastructure facilities to meet short-term demand and will be designed to allow further expansions for future growth. It will benefit the community as a whole by supporting the roll-out of other related projects that aim to provide improved services to the community and generate more affordable housing.

The Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDIP) has also recently entered into an agreement with the Maranoa Regional Council for the upgrade of the Roma Sewage Treatment Plant. This project will construct six new sludge drying beds at the plant that will increase load capacity to meet existing and future demand. This demand has resulted from pressures from the resource industry, including increases in population and trucked waste received from work camps. Construction is anticipated to commence in July and finish in August 2014.

Work on the Wallumbilla North Road upgrade in Wallumbilla is ahead of schedule and is now close to completion.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads is working with the Maranoa Regional Council to develop agreements for the delivery of the Fairview Road and Injune–Taroom Road upgrades with the aim to commence construction later this year.

An additional \$300,000 has recently been approved under Round 3 of the Royalties for the Regions program to the Maranoa Regional Council for the upgrade of the Injune Sewage Treatment Plant. The agreement for the delivery of this project is currently being negotiated.

In the Western Downs region, upgrades to Goombi Fairymeadow Road, Bennetts School Road, Fairymeadow Road, Beelbee Road, Mary Road and Joseph Road are now complete, with the Weranga North Road upgrade on schedule for completion by 30 June 2014.

The new Chinchilla Washdown Bay was completed in April 2014. This facility removes weed seeds from resource industry and agricultural vehicles, helping to protect the region's biodiversity and agriculture industry.

The Miles Water, Sewerage and Recycled Water Project is progressing well and is scheduled for completion in early 2015. This project will increase the water and sewerage network capacity and the development of a recycled water scheme to alleviate potable water supplies in the township of Miles.

In relation to the Winfields Road Landfill Upgrade Project, DSDIP has recently entered into an agreement with the Western Downs Regional Council for the delivery of this project. This project will provide a large, contemporary waste disposal facility for the eastern parts of the Western Downs Regional Council area, primarily to replace facilities in Chinchilla and Dalby, which are reaching capacity due to the resource sector development in the area. Construction is scheduled to commence in early 2015.

Agreements are being developed for the Condamine Waste and Recycling Centre and Miles Waste and Recycling Centre projects approved under Round 2 of the Royalties for the Regions program.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads is working with the Western Downs Regional Council to develop agreements for the delivery of the Avenue Road rehabilitation and the Brownlies Road, Old Cameby Road, Ducklo-Gulera Road and Upper Humbug Road upgrades with the aim of commencing construction later this year.

All of these projects demonstrate the breadth of infrastructure being supported by the Royalties for the Regions program, highlighting the benefits of providing critical infrastructure in sustaining growth and building resilience in Queensland's regional communities.