

Question on Notice

No. 462

Asked on Wednesday, 4 June 2014

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise on the progress of construction work on the Deception Bay Road, Boundary Road and Dohles Rocks Road access ramps to the Bruce Highway and how will the government manage congestion on these to reduce the impact on motorists?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Murrumba for the question.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) commenced work on the Bruce Highway Managed Motorway Project in March this year and construction is on track. The project will maximise the existing capacity of the Bruce Highway, especially during high demand periods, by keeping traffic flowing. Ramp signals will be installed on the Uhlmann Road, Deception Bay Road, Boundary Road, Anzac Avenue and Dohles Rocks Road southbound on-ramps. Underground sensors will be installed on each of the on-ramps and highway to measure and calculate traffic flow, speed and occupancy levels. These sensors are linked to ramp signals on the on-ramp to manage the flow of traffic entering the highway. Closed circuit television cameras and upgraded communication systems will also be installed as part of the project. These technologies will assist with traffic management and will help to achieve a higher and more consistent level of highway performance.

Construction activities are being staged, and work is now advanced on three of the five southbound on-ramps. Initial works have involved clearing the on-ramps, installing safety and traffic barriers, initial earthworks and drainage, and electrical conduits and systems are now being installed. The on-ramps currently under construction include Deception Bay Road, Boundary Road and Dohles Rocks Road. TMR is now preparing for asphaltting activities which are scheduled to commence in the coming months. Once these works are complete, construction will then focus on the Anzac Avenue and Uhlmann Road on-ramps.

TMR is also undertaking safety improvement works at the Boundary Road interchange which includes lengthening and widening the northbound off-ramp, extending the left turn slip lane on the southbound off-ramp, and safety improvements to the northbound left-turn slip lane. With an increase in traffic volumes at the Boundary Road interchange, the overpass is often at physical capacity during peak times and as a result motorists may experience some traffic delays on the Boundary Road approaches. Minor adjustments have been made to the signal times in an effort to improve traffic progression across the Boundary Road overpass, however no further adjustment can be undertaken at this current stage without compromising motorist safety on the highway off-ramps. TMR considers safety of the Bruce Highway off-ramps to be paramount and makes every effort to minimise the risk of vehicle queues extending into the high-speed environment of the highway.

Construction activities at each of the five on-ramp locations are being programmed and delivered in such a way to reduce the impacts on motorists, local businesses and residents. Some of these measures include undertaking construction tasks at night whenever possible to reduce the impacts to motorists, avoiding undertaking construction during peak hour times (mornings, nights and public holidays), ensuring that the local road network remains open and access to local properties is maintained and clear and consistent traffic management signage is used.

The project team is also regularly communicating with local stakeholders to ensure they are informed of construction activities.

The project is on target to be completed by mid-2015, weather permitting.