

Question on Notice

No. 590

Asked on Thursday, 7 August 2014

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide an update on the roll out of flashing school zone signs at Queensland schools and advise how these signs are improving road safety for school communities?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Pine Rivers for the question.

The Queensland Government is delivering on a \$10 million major commitment to provide flashing school zone signs at 300 Queensland schools.

Schools were selected on the basis of a detailed risk analysis of all school zones in Queensland, and nominations of particular problem areas by school communities through local Members of Parliament. Priority has been given to school zones with a significant crash history, a high level of vehicle and pedestrian traffic, and higher speed limits or visibility problems.

As at 30 June 2014, 177 school zones (covering 205 of the 300 schools) have had flashing school zone signs installed.

Sign design and procurement has commenced for the 2014-15 program.

In financial year 2014-15, flashing lights will be installed at a further 133 school zones (covering 150 Queensland schools) as part of the government commitment to install flashing lights at over 300 schools. In addition to the 300 schools announced in 2014, flashing signs have also been installed at 126 split campus and multi-lane school zones (covering 135 schools).

The traffic around school zones is one of the most complex road transport environments encountered by motorists and students. Speeding through school zones greatly increases the risk to pedestrians as the faster a vehicle is travelling, the longer it takes to stop and the greater the severity of the impact.

Flashing school zone signs improve the safety of students by alerting drivers they are entering a school zone, and encouraging motorists to slow down as they travel through a school zone.

I wish to commend the Member for Pine Rivers for his representations and commitment to road safety.