Question on Notice No. 591 Asked on 7 August 2014

MR WELLINGTON asked the Premier (MR NEWMAN)—

With reference to the Beerwah Forest—

Will the government review the proposed location of the Caloundra Road, Bruce Highway upgrade and advise what alternative locations were investigated for the location of the motor cross facility before choosing the Beerwah Forest as the best location?

ANSWER:

The upgrade of the Caloundra Road interchange is a priority to address safety, capacity and congestion issues currently being experienced at the interchange. The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) undertook extensive options assessment and community consultation as part of the development of the preferred planning layout for the upgrade of the Bruce Highway between Caloundra Road and the Sunshine Motorway.

I am advised that the Caloundra Road interchange investigations considered several layouts to determine the best location for the new interchange. A key consideration was avoiding impacts to the Mooloolah River National Park, Jowarra section to the immediate north-west of the current Caloundra Road interchange.

In relation to the motor cross facility, during 2013 the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing assessed a number of sites in the Sunshine Coast area. The Mooloolah Logging Area is close to the Bruce Highway and Steve Irwin Way. An Expression of Interest process in relation to this facility is currently underway.