

Question on Notice

No. 8

Asked on Tuesday, 11 February 2014

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide an update on construction of the Moreton Bay Rail Link Project?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Kallangur for the question.

This is an exciting project for the residents and businesses that will benefit from the \$1.147 billion project.

Not only will the Moreton Bay Rail bring unprecedented integrated pedestrian, cycling and public transport connectivity, it will also deliver jobs and drive new, sustainable transport orientated investment for one of Australia's fastest growing urban areas.

This project will transform Moreton Bay region and is undoubtedly the single biggest infrastructure investment in this region for a generation.

I am pleased to report the first sod has been turned and clearing work has begun.

In mid-January, construction teams started controlled clearing within the project corridor at Petrie with specific processes implemented to manage wildlife within the rail corridor during the clearing operation.

The project team have employed ecologists and fauna spotters to work with clearing teams. In addition, many of the koala population within the corridor have been fitted with tracking devices allowing teams to understand where koalas are located before starting clearing activities.

The community will also see work ramping up with the team establishing site access points and site facilities at key locations along the project corridor including Petrie, Kallangur and Mango Hill. Work will continue over the coming months to establish more access points into the project corridor.

Around March/April the first piling will start, most likely at Dohles Rocks Road, for the rail over road bridge structures.

There is widespread interest in the community about this project. By mid March the main project office will be ready at Petrie and will include a visitor centre where members of the public can view plans and talk to the project team.

The Newman Government is focused on delivering better infrastructure and better planning. Our government is continuing to work with the Australian Government and Moreton Bay Regional Council to deliver this invaluable project for the people of the Moreton Bay region.