

Question on Notice

No. 490

Asked on Thursday, 4 June 2015

MR BLEIJIE asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade (HON J TRAD) —

QUESTION:

With reference to the Sunshine Coast youth unemployment rate of 14.4 per cent, and given that the government has scrapped \$6b of planned projects cutting up to 10,000 jobs, including critical transport infrastructure on the Sunshine Coast such as the Mooloolah River Interchange—

Will the Minister advise the government's plan to deliver job-creating infrastructure projects on the Sunshine Coast, specifically what projects, the cost of the projects and the timeframe?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Kawana for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to creating jobs and a diverse economy by delivering new infrastructure and investment. The LNP's election commitments for the 2015 state election were based on an economic strategy wholly planned around the sale of assets. That plan was rejected by the people of Queensland.

We have established Building Queensland as a key, independent body to provide expert advice to government about its investment in infrastructure. Experts, not politicians will use a transparent and disciplined framework for evaluating infrastructure proposals and provide advice to Government. It will mean the best projects are prioritised for investment that will provide the certainty that business needs to plan with confidence.

The work of Building Queensland will also feed into the first State Infrastructure Plan in more than three years, which will be released in early 2016.

The State Infrastructure Plan will provide a coordinated and integrated approach to infrastructure planning, investment and delivery. This will give business the confidence of knowing what infrastructure is planned and when, so business can make investment decisions, workforce decisions, and planning decisions.

To make sure our State Infrastructure Plan meets the needs of business and the needs of the community, we have released our Infrastructure Plan Directions Paper for public consultation. Importantly, the development of the State Infrastructure Plan is not delaying our investment in infrastructure. State government agencies are continuing to advance individual infrastructure projects and bring them to market.

The current *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2014–15 to 2017–18* (QTRIP) is delivering over \$2.4 billion of infrastructure projects in the North Coast district over four years. The government has confirmed it will maintain the QTRIP investment at the current level to deliver infrastructure and create jobs across the state.

The Member should direct any specific questions regarding the Mooloolah River Interchange project to the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply.