

Question on Notice

No. 499

Asked on Thursday, 4 June 2015

MR LAST asked the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply (HON M BAILEY) —

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise the projected five-year works schedule with regards to replacement of the Haughton River Bridge on the Bruce Highway, Giru and the building of a second Burdekin River crossing between Ayr and Home Hill?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Burdekin for the question.

1. Haughton River Bridge

The Haughton River Bridge will be replaced as part of the 14km Haughton River Floodplain project.

That project is complex and requires careful planning, including because of the environmentally sensitive nature of the Haughton River floodplain and its location, with surrounding farming and rural-residential properties and the downstream township of Giru.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is currently undertaking that planning which includes detailed engineering investigations and community consultation.

I am advised that TMR currently anticipates that planning will be completed by the end of 2016.

The outcomes of the current planning work will determine the timeframes for detailed design and construction of the bridge.

2. Second Burdekin River Crossing

Construction of a second Burdekin River Crossing is part of the wider Burdekin Highway Realignment project.

TMR completed a planning study for this project in 2010.

There is currently no Australian Government funding commitment for the construction of the Burdekin Highway Realignment project in the five year works schedule.

In the \$8.5 billion 10 year, jointly funded Bruce Highway program, there is a \$48 million commitment (\$38.4 million Federal funding; \$9.6 million State funding), from 2019-20 onwards, towards the 'Burdekin deviation – plan and preserve the corridor'.