

Question on Notice

No. 740

Asked on Tuesday, 15 September 2015

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide (a) cost benefit analysis of the wire rope fence guard as compared to Armco steel guard rails, when they are damaged, and (b) the cost expended on the wire rope and Armco in maintenance from Helidon to Withcott?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Lockyer for the question.

I understand that there has been extensive research on both the safety and cost benefits of wire rope and guardrail as roadside protection systems.

I am advised that whilst the construction cost of both systems is similar, the maintenance costs are up to 50% less for wire rope repairs per incident than guard rail.

Both systems have their advantages and I am advised that the Department of Transport and Main Roads determines implementation of either system based on the particular traffic mix, speed environment and prevailing road conditions.

I am advised that last financial year, for the section of the Warrego Highway between Helidon to Withcott:

- \$34,040 was spent on wire rope fence guard maintenance; and
- \$14,300 was spent on Armco guard rail maintenance.

I understand this reflects the extensive use of wire rope fence guard on the Helidon to Withcott section of the highway.