

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 756**

**Asked on 15 September 2015**

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

### **QUESTION:**

With reference to the construction of the Sunshine Coast Public University Hospital due to open in late 2016 and as the new Labor Government has either delayed or cancelled important job creating infrastructure projects on the Sunshine Coast, including the Mooloolah River Interchange Project—

Will the Minister (a) explain how the government plans to deal with the road pressures that will be generated once the hospital opens in 2016, and (b) guarantee that commuters, patients, visitors and emergency services will not be delayed in getting to and from the hospital because of the Mooloolah River Interchange project being taken off the agenda?

### **ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for Kawana for the question.

It is incorrect and misleading for the Member to suggest that this government has delayed or cancelled projects on the Sunshine Coast, including the Mooloolah River Interchange (MRI) project.

I can confirm that in fact, no projects on the Sunshine Coast have been either delayed or cancelled.

As the Member knows, the MRI project was announced by the former Newman government on 19 August 2014 as an unfunded commitment under the so called 'strong choices' plan, which the LNP no longer supports, after being rejected by the Queensland people on 31 January 2015.

It is misleading for the Member to suggest that the MRI project had been allocated funding by the previous LNP Government – it hadn't. It was wholly dependent on asset sales, a proposal rejected by both the Labor Party, and the Queensland people.

The Member and his colleagues had three years to deliver for the Sunshine Coast and failed to solve the very issues for which they now seek my guarantee.

The previous LNP government, in which the Member was a Minister, wasted more than \$30 million of the Transport and Main Roads (TMR) budget on preparing for asset sales and contestability, and stripped more than \$600 million from transport funding over the last three years – which could have gone a long way if invested.

Unlike the previous LNP government, this government is working to prioritise the road upgrades and transport initiatives needed to support access to the new Sunshine Coast Public University Hospital, due to open in late 2016.

We are currently finalising planning for road upgrades in the local area to increase capacity to and from the new hospital, and to help relieve congestion along Nicklin Way.

I have also requested that TMR identify interim transport initiatives to get the most out of our existing infrastructure. This includes giving priority to emergency vehicles at signalised intersections along Nicklin Way to improve response times, potential upgrades of congested intersections along Kawana Way, and providing additional bus services.