

Question on Notice

No. 896

Asked on Thursday, 17 September 2015

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

QUESTION:

What does the budget deliver for the keen cyclists in the Mackay Electorate and other cyclists in Queensland?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Mackay for the question.

The Palaszczuk Labor government is investing nearly \$37 million into safe cycling infrastructure this year and \$163 million over the next four years, demonstrating our commitment to deliver our vision of ‘more cycling, more often’.

We have shown our strong commitment to regional Queensland by expanding our cycling infrastructure program statewide and injecting an extra \$17 million over the next four years, to plan and build safe, direct and connected cycling routes throughout Queensland.

Included in this investment is \$12 million in 2015–16 for grants to local governments that have an endorsed Principal Cycle Network Plan in place. Funding must be matched dollar for dollar by local governments.

The member may be interested to know that under the previous LNP government delivered a staggering \$98 million in budget cuts for cyclists across Queensland. This included funding cuts to 7.2km of new bike and pathways.

I am sure that cyclists in Mackay and all across Queensland will be glad that the Palaszczuk Government is getting our cycling infrastructure back on track.

A special round of cycling grants is currently underway for local governments outside South East Queensland that have endorsed their region’s Principal Cycle Network Plan.

Mackay Regional Council was invited to apply for this special grant round.

Applications closed on 18 September 2015 and are currently under assessment. Successful grant projects are expected to be announced in late 2015.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads is currently working with many local governments across Queensland, including Mackay Regional Council, to identify high priority principal cycle routes for further investigation.

This work will inform future local and state government investment in cycling facilities in Mackay and other areas.