

Question on Notice

No. 1527

Asked on Thursday, 1 September 2016

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the intersection of the Wide Bay Highway and the Bruce Highway at Bell's Bridge north of Gympie—

Will the Minister advise (a) are there any plans to improve the road safety aspects of the intersection prior to the completion of the Stage D Cooroy to Curra Gympie bypass upgrade of the Bruce Highway, (b) what are the results of traffic movement studies at that site on both the Wide Bay Highway and the Bruce Highway during the last five years and (c) how many accidents and fatalities have been recorded at the intersection?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Gympie for the question.

The Bruce Highway forms part of the National Network and is substantially funded by the federal government. As was the case under the previous LNP government, there is no funding currently allocated to design or construct an upgrade at this intersection.

However, my department is undertaking concept planning for a future upgrade at this location, and will continue to make representations to the federal government for funding that will allow this project to be carried out.

There are 3794 vehicles entering the intersection and continuing north on the Bruce Highway and 4258 vehicles entering the intersection and continuing south on the Bruce Highway (during a 12 hour period in February 2014). Turning movements through the intersection account for 1112 vehicles turning into the Wide Bay Highway and 1172 vehicles turning out from the Wide Bay Highway (during a 12 hour period in February 2014).

Using the five years of validated crash data between 1 June 2011 and 31 May 2016, there have been three reported crashes. No fatalities have been recorded at the intersection during this time.