

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 1598**

**Asked on Tuesday, 13 September 2016**

**MR KATTER** 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 reports that the workforce for roadworks to be completed on the Diamantina Development Road, south of Boulia, in this financial year, will be accommodated by a temporary on-site camp, and given that businesses in the nearby town are highly distressed from the rural crisis—

Will the Minister commit to ensuring that critical spending in these areas is fulfilling one of its primary criteria, which is to stimulate businesses in local towns, and that those workers use the local accommodation businesses?

### **ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for Mount Isa for the question.

The Diamantina Developmental Road project is a \$5 million project to complete the sealing of the Diamantina Developmental Road between Bedourie and Boulia.

The project is funded under the Western Roads Upgrade Program. An average of 16 direct jobs will be supported over the life of the project.

There are two project sites, located approximately 80km south of Boulia and 110km north of Bedourie. RoadTek and Boulia Shire Council have been awarded the construction contracts.

For the RoadTek section, consideration for accommodation was based on a number of factors including Workplace Health and Safety, productivity on site, and capacity to accommodate a 20 person crew in Boulia. An additional hour each way for travel to and from the site to Boulia for accommodation was deemed to be a Workplace Health and Safety risk and would also impact the productivity on site due to the loss of two hours each day in travel.

I have been advised that the option of accommodating 20 people consistently (and up to possibly 28 people at times) in Boulia was investigated by RoadTek. Boulia's capacity to supply accommodation on this scale was limited and posed a risk to the project if the required accommodation became unavailable for any reason.

RoadTek supports local businesses where possible and are currently undertaking other works in the Boulia area and operating from Boulia for these works.

For the project in question, RoadTek has a standing three room reservation at the Desert Sands Motel in Boulia from 18 September 2016 to 29 October 2016.

RoadTek has engaged Boulia local contractor P.E. & G.C. Harris Road Contractors as a major subcontractor to conduct earthworks and supply machinery and operators. RoadTek are also procuring materials for the project locally when available.