

Question on Notice

No. 1708

Asked on Thursday, 15 September 2016

MRS STUCKEY 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 recent Pacific Highway M1 delegation visit to Sydney—

Will the Minister advise whether an up-to-date business case for Varsity Lakes to Tugun was taken to the meeting, and if the business case identified the urgent need for upgrades for this section?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Currumbin for the question.

The M1 Pacific Motorway is part of the National Land Transport Network (NLTN), for which the Australian Government has primary funding responsibility. It is also part of the nationally-accredited Key Freight Route network. Upgrading of the Pacific Motorway, which carries 148,000 vehicles per day (including 12,000 heavy vehicles) at the northern end and 86,200 vehicles per day (including 8800 heavy vehicles) at the southern end, remains one of the state's highest unfunded NLTN priorities.

On 7 September 2016, together with Councillor Tom Tate, Mayor of Gold Coast City Council, Mr Paul Turner, Executive General Manager Advocacy, RACQ and Mr Nick Brehren, General Manager, Chamber of Commerce Industry Queensland, I met with The Honourable Paul Fletcher MP, federal Minister for Urban Infrastructure, as part of the Pacific Motorway M1 delegation. Councillor Luke Smith, Mayor of Logan City Council and Mr Gary Mahon, Chief Executive Officer of the Queensland Trucking Association, forwarded letters of support in their absence.

In that meeting, the Palaszczuk Government's highest priorities for upgrading the M1 Pacific Motorway (Gateway Motorway to Tugun) were clearly articulated to Minister Fletcher, as follows:

- upgrading the Pacific Motorway-Gateway Motorway merge at the northern end
- six-laning between Mudgeeraba and Varsity Lakes at the southern end.

Upgrading the M1 is of vital importance to industry, commercial businesses and the travelling public generally. Notably, both the M1 Pacific Motorway – Gateway Motorway merge and Mudgeeraba to Varsity Lakes (six-laning) projects were listed as "Priority Projects" on the Australian Infrastructure Priority List released by Infrastructure Australia (IA) on 9 September 2016, following assessment of the project business cases. The Mudgeeraba – Varsity Lakes six-laning project was also reclassified as a "National Connectivity" solution by IA, as opposed to its previous "Urban Congestion" classification.

The Palaszczuk Government already has \$86 million committed and on the table for these two projects, and based on 80:20 (federal:state) funding arrangements, will continue to seek federal funding to upgrade the M1 Pacific Motorway, consistent with the funding arrangements confirmed to complete duplication of the Pacific Highway upgrade in New South Wales and Queensland's current policy position for funding of NLTN works.

Despite the current lack of a fair and reasonable federal funding commitment to upgrade priority sections on the M1 Pacific Motorway, I can confirm the Palaszczuk Government continues to progress planning to ensure projects can be expedited when federal funding for construction becomes available. The Palaszczuk Government has invested \$9.86 million over three years to ensure priority projects, such as the Mudgeeraba to Varsity Lakes six-lane upgrade and the M1 Pacific Motorway – Gateway Motorway merge projects are shovel-ready when the appropriate federal funding arrangements for construction becomes available.

While the business case for the Mudgeeraba to Varsity Lakes upgrade of the M1 Pacific Motorway has been completed and assessed by IA detailed planning and design for the upgrade of the 10-kilometre section south of Varsity Lakes (to Tugun) is currently underway. This detailed planning is a precursor to the development of the business case. Once completed, the Queensland Government will submit the business case for the Varsity Lakes to Tugun upgrade to IA for assessment, and the Australian Government for funding consideration.

I can assure the Member that sufficient information supporting the need to upgrade various sections of the M1 Pacific Motorway has previously been provided to IA. My department will continue to work with IA and its federal counterparts to ensure the Australian Government has the necessary information to make informed, fair and timely funding decisions for both current and future priority upgrades to the M1 Pacific Motorway in Queensland.