

Question on Notice

No. 2202

Asked on Tuesday, 29 November 2016

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise as to what benefits we will see from the ITS trial being planned for Ipswich?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Ipswich West for the question.

I recently had the pleasure of announcing the Cooperative and Automated Vehicle Initiative, which will include the development of a large-scale test-bed for Cooperative Intelligent Transport Systems (C-ITS) technology established in the Ipswich area.

The test-bed will be used to trial vehicles and infrastructure that are fitted with C-ITS devices, enabling vehicles and infrastructure to talk to one another. These devices work by providing safety warnings to the driver about a range of conditions – for example, a pedestrian crossing at a signalised intersection, a red light runner or a queue ahead that is not visible to a driver.

The European Union (EU), United States of America (USA), Japanese, and Korean Governments and industry have invested billions of dollars into the development of C-ITS technologies. Japan already has these service offerings in a number of commercially available vehicles – such as the Prius. The US and EU expect mass production of C-ITS by 2019.

These international efforts do not translate locally without some investment and support from all levels of Government, including the development and deployment of the required digital and physical infrastructure, and pilots to test the cooperative systems. Without government investment Queensland, and Australia more broadly, will risk being left behind – Australians will not have access to technologies that could save their lives, reduce serious injuries or support a cleaner environment and more efficient network.

As the C-ITS pilot is delivered in Ipswich, key benefits from the project will include:

- government and local industry representatives are up-skilled in C-ITS deployment and operations
- new industry partnerships for services are formed and tested
- safety benefits are estimated, and public perceptions are validated through on-road testing
- public awareness in C-ITS technologies is increased
- a test-bed for use by government, industry and academia is available after the pilot.

The Ipswich ITS trial is another example of the Palaszczuk Government's commitment to working with industry to prepare Queensland for the challenges and benefits of changing technology.