

Question on Notice

No. 106

Asked on Thursday, 16 February 2017

MR G BUTCHER 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 update the House on the progress of plans for an alternate bypass road around Nellie Simpson Road, to assist the Boyne Valley community in times of flooding from Awoonga Dam?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Gladstone for the question.

The northern alignment of Gladstone-Monto Road, in the area of Nellie Simpson Road was constructed with the raising of Awoonga Dam in 2002 by the Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB). The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) acknowledges the areas surrounding Nellie Simpson Road and Marble Creek, within the vicinity of the Awoonga Dam, are flood-prone locations following natural disasters and regional flood events.

The Palaszczuk Government recognises that with GAWB identifying alternate water sources to service the Gladstone region, works to raise the height of Awoonga Dam will not occur in the foreseeable future. The raising of the Awoonga Dam wall had previously been established as a trigger point for future upgrades to the sections of Gladstone-Monto Road impacted by flood immunity issues.

Accordingly, over the past 12 months TMR has progressed planning for future upgrades to improve the flood immunity of Gladstone-Monto Road. From this planning, TMR has identified the preferred alignment for a flood access road in the Nellie Simpson Road area, utilising the vacant rail corridor.

This alignment was selected due to:

- the reduced environmental and cultural heritage impacts of the alignment
- reduced ongoing maintenance costs as the access road will only be used when Awoonga Dam backflows close Gladstone-Monto Road
- the high standard of the alignment utilising the flat grade of the rail corridor
- the land being currently state-owned, which overcomes the need for land resumptions from property owners.

The Palaszczuk Government is now looking at options to fund the construction of the flood access road on Gladstone-Monto Road, however any funding will be subject to competing priorities across the State.

I would like to thank the Member for his ongoing advocacy on this issue, and his commitment to delivering improved transport outcomes for the Gladstone community.