

Question on Notice

No. 1025

Asked on Thursday 23 August 2018

MR J COSTIGAN ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the lack of acknowledgement by the Minister of the four fatalities in less than 24 hours on the Bruce Highway in the Mackay-Whitsunday region this week—

Will the Minister advise what the Palaszczuk Labor Government is doing to improve road safety in the Whitsunday Electorate and neighbouring communities?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Whitsunday for the question.

My thoughts are with the family and friends of those we have lost in these terrible accidents. Every death or serious injury on our roads is one too many, and the Palaszczuk Government is committed to improving road safety and reducing the road toll as much as possible. We cannot do this alone – drivers have a responsibility to ensure their own safety and the safety of others.

The Bruce Highway Upgrade Program is the largest road infrastructure program that Queensland has ever seen. The \$8.5 billion investment, jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments, provides a 10-year program through to 2022–23, aimed at improving safety, flood resilience and capacity along the length and breadth of the Bruce Highway between Brisbane and Cairns.

In the current Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program, the Australian and Queensland Governments have committed more than \$542 million to be spent on improving the road network in the Whitsunday electorate.

Projects to improve safety and capacity on the Bruce Highway north of Mackay include investment of \$68.5 million to deliver 17 overtaking lanes progressively over the next four years between Mackay and Home Hill, with four of the overtaking lanes already completed.

Stage 1 of the \$497.3 million Mackay Ring Road involves an 11.3 kilometre highway bypass of the Mackay urban area. Construction commenced in October 2017 and is progressing on schedule.

The Mackay Northern Access Upgrade is an \$80 million project funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments to improve the capacity of the Bruce Highway through Mackay. Construction of Stage 1 is expected to commence in mid-2019.

As part of the Bruce Highway Safety Package, \$28.4 million has been allocated for widening to accommodate wide centre line treatment between Hampden and Kuttabul, which also includes the upgrade of 12 intersections.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads will be undertaking seven Township Entry Treatments from Mackay to Gumlu, and a \$1.3 million upgrade of the Mount Gordon rest area in Bowen.

In addition to these projects, regular maintenance works are undertaken on the Bruce Highway to ensure the road is in a safe condition.