

## Question on Notice

No. 1076

Asked on 4 September 2018

**MR A PERRETT** asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (HON S HINCHLIFFE) –

### QUESTION:

With reference to the Works for Queensland-funded Mary Valley Rattler revitalisation project—

Will the Minister advise (a) what probity checks the government has undertaken on the project, (b) if the government has sought clarification from the Gympie Regional Council as to why it was misled about the project cost, (c) if the government will conduct a full audit of the project and (d) if the government will ask the Auditor-General to make an independent assessment of the project to ensure it meets community expectations about the expenditure of taxpayers' funds?

### ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Gympie for the question.

- (a) While the Valley Rattler project is the responsibility of the Gympie Regional Council, responsible expenditure of public funds is very important to the State Government. The State Government has held the Gympie Regional Council to account by requiring the Council to submit regular reports and a final acquittal to ensure it has spent the funds it has received from the State Government appropriately and in the way, which was intended.
- (b) As with all Works for Queensland funded projects, full responsibility for the delivery of this project rests with the responsible Council.

I am advised the Gympie Regional Council received a total allocation of \$5.9 million under the 2016-17 Works for Queensland program. Gympie Regional Council chose to use \$4.7 million of that allocation towards the Mary Valley Heritage Rail project, which would help replace, restore and remediate the track infrastructure, rolling stock, bridges and buildings. The remaining W4Q funds were allocated to three other projects.

The Gympie Regional Council advised the former Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning that the Works for Queensland funding allocated to this project had been expended by 30 November 2017. The overall project is now complete, with handover of the certified track and structures undertaken on 27 July 2018. The Gympie Regional Council has completed the final acquittal reporting requirements for its 2016-17 Works for Queensland funding.

Any increased or additional costs in delivering the project are the responsibility of the Gympie Regional Council.

- (c) The State Government is not proposing to undertake an audit of this project.
- (d) The State Government is not proposing to ask the Auditor-General to make an independent assessment of the project.

I would encourage the Member for Gympie to make contact with the Gympie Regional Council Mayor, Mick Curran, for further information on how the Gympie Regional Council has delivered the project.