

Question on Notice

No. 1162

Asked on Thursday 6 September 2018

MR R KATTER ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the roads to Cobbold Gorge and Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park which are both largely unsealed in an area with attractions underpinning outback tourism—

Will the Minister take action to ensure the safety and reasonable condition of roads to these valuable state assets given that local councils do not have the financial capacity to maintain them, and state funding to do so is inadequate?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Traeger for the question.

Both Cobbold Gorge (Etheridge Shire Council) and Boodjamulla National Park (Burke Shire Council) are local government controlled roads and are, therefore, not maintained by the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

The department will continue to work with local government authorities to apply for, and administer, funding through programs such as the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme and the Transport and Tourism Connections.

Transport and Tourism Connections aims to improve access to significant tourist sites by upgrading the surrounding road infrastructure. Round one provided almost \$6 million in funding, and I am happy to confirm that round two submissions will shortly be called. I encourage both councils to apply for funding under this program for these important local links.