

Question on Notice

No. 1165

Asked on Thursday 6 September 2018

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise what the Palaszczuk Labor Government's plans are in relation to improved road safety measures in the electorate of Whitsunday, specifically the development of a new roadside rest area near Bloomsbury, to help combat driver fatigue?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Whitsunday for the question.

As part of an integrated road safety strategy, the Department of Transport and Main Roads is committed to ensuring all drivers are provided with adequate opportunity to meet fatigue needs when driving on the Queensland road network.

Between Mackay and Townsville, there are currently nine rest areas and seven stopping places suitable for vehicles and heavy vehicles. The average gap between a rest area or stopping place is 19.5 kilometres, or 12 minutes of travel time.

In May 2018, I announced plans to commence construction of a new heavy vehicle rest area south of Koumala, and the commencement of upgrades to existing unsealed heavy vehicle pullover areas at sites north of Clairview, north of Gumlu, south of Bloomsbury and between Proserpine and Bowen before mid-2020.

When planning locations for rest areas, the department ensures that it does not construct sites that conflict or compete with either commercial or civic sites that are accessible from the state-controlled road network. Rest areas will generally not be constructed near civic sites that support local towns or communities, or where they provide competition to genuine and easily accessible commercial operations.

There is currently an existing truck stop and commercial facility which provides a satisfactory level of amenity for road users at Bloomsbury.