

Question on Notice

No. 503

Asked on Thursday, 3 May 2018

MR D BATT ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)

QUESTION:

With reference to long-standing community concerns regarding the safety of students being dropped off and picked up from Walkervale State School in Bundaberg—

Will the Minister commit to funding the much needed pick up/drop off area through the safe school travel (SafeST) program?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Bundaberg for the question.

The construction of school transport infrastructure including pick up and drop off areas is supported by the Department of Transport and Main Roads through the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS). TIDS operates on a matched-funding basis with local governments through 17 Regional Roads and Transport Groups across the state. Road safety around schools is a priority and I encourage these groups to allocate TIDS funding to school projects.

Walkervale State School is on a local government controlled road in the Bundaberg Regional Council (BRC) area. BRC is a member of the Wide Bay Burnett Regional Roads and Transport Group which receives an annual allocation of \$6.746 million. I understand that each year this group allocates 10 per cent of its funding towards school projects.

BRC is currently working with the Department of Education on a design for a pick up and drop off area within the school grounds, and BRC can raise this as a priority project with the Wide Bay group for TIDS funding.

I have been advised that this group has recently funded a construction project at Walkervale State School, upgrading the existing school crossing area on Sims Road, Avenell Heights. The combined cost of this project is \$20,490, with another project planned for the new financial year to construct further concrete pathways in streets adjoining the current school crossing for a total project cost estimate of \$40,000.