

## Question on Notice

No. 601

Asked on Wednesday, 16 May 2018

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

### QUESTION:

With reference to concerns about the safety of children, pedestrians and motorists in Bundaberg school zones due to insufficient flashing lights at 11 schools in the Bundaberg Electorate—

Will the Minister commit to installing necessary flashing lights at these schools?

### ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Bundaberg for the question.

I am advised there are currently over 3000 school zones at approximately 1700 schools in the state. The Palaszczuk Government has chosen to address the issue of increasing the visibility of school zones by rolling out a program that installs flashing school zone signs at risk-assessed school zones across the state. Due to its success, the Palaszczuk Government has now extended the flashing school zone signs program to install signs at a further 300 school zones from 2018–19 to 2020–21, at a rate of 100 per year.

Flashing school zone signs are effective in alerting motorists to the fact there is a school zone, which encourages reduced vehicle speeds through the zones. School zones are selected for the flashing school zone signs program based on an annual detailed risk analysis, carried out by the Department of Transport and Main Roads of all school zones in Queensland. Priority has been given to school zones with a significant crash history, a high level of vehicle and pedestrian traffic, road pickup and set down within the zone, higher speed limits or visibility problems. Input provided by schools, communities, local councillors and members of parliament is also considered.

To date, over 800 Queensland school zones have had flashing school zone signage installed in their school zones. The Member will be pleased to know that 22 of the 38 eligible school zones (over 60 per cent) in the Bundaberg electorate have had flashing school zone signs installed. The latest school zone to have flashing school zone signs installed in the Bundaberg electorate was the George Street school zone, outside St Patrick's Catholic Primary School. This happened on 22 February 2018.

The Member may also be interested to know that the annual assessment process for the 2018–2019 round of the flashing school zone sign program is well underway. All eligible school zones from across Queensland, including the 14 eligible school zones in the Bundaberg electorate, are being assessed and considered for signage upgrades. Once the list of the next 100 top priority school zone sites for flashing signs is approved, the respective school principals will be notified.