

Question on Notice

No. 612

Asked on Wednesday, 16 May 2018

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Coomera Connector having a declared foot print and the information contained on the Department of Transport and Main Roads' website changing—

Will the Minister advise of the timelines for (a) community consultation, (b) land acquisitions, (c) final design works, (d) documented business case, (e) allocation of funds and (f) construction start and completion dates?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Theodore for the question.

As the Member is aware, the Palaszczuk Government has prioritised, and continues to progress, planning for a second transport corridor link on the northern Gold Coast. Known as the 'Coomera Connector', formally the Intra-Regional Transport Corridor (IRTC), protection of this transport corridor as a future state-controlled road has been completed by the Palaszczuk Government, after the previous LNP Government failed to plan for the future by taking the unprecedented step to remove the IRTC from the *South East Queensland Regional Plan* in 2014.

The southern section of the Coomera Connector between Nerang and Coomera was gazetted by the Palaszczuk Government as a future state-controlled road in 2016. Gazettal of the second stage of the Coomera Connector between Coomera and Stapylton was completed in May 2017, also by the Palaszczuk Government.

Any directly impacted stakeholders on the gazetted alignment have already been consulted, as is the legislated requirement to complete the gazettal process. The early acquisition of properties has occurred in some hardship circumstances. As the project is still in the planning phase there are no timelines for all land acquisitions, final design works, documented business case, allocation of funds or construction start or completion dates.

As the planning progresses and elements of the project are confirmed, the Department of Transport and Main Roads will be able to better inform the community in regards to timeframes. The Coomera Connector will be a vital link, in a future series of improvements, to expand and upgrade the local roads network in the northern Gold Coast area to support the burgeoning business and residential communities.

Timing for delivery of the Coomera Connector will depend on the further growth in traffic demand and the availability of funding. Funding for any future construction would be subject to competing priorities across the state.

That competition has become more challenging as a consequence of more than \$600 million having been cut from transport funding during the term of the previous LNP government – resulting in a shortfall in project planning and delivery that the Palaszczuk Government is still working to repair.