

Question on Notice

No. 810

Asked on Thursday, 14 June 2018

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the recent spate of accidents on the Fitzroy Development Road, between Dingo and Nebo—

Will the Minister advise (a) what the State Government is doing to make this vital road link safer for graziers and miners, (b) if the State Government will prioritise funding for urgent safety works, especially on the recently resurfaced section, where there has been two truck rollovers since the resurfacing works and (c) how the State Government plans to combat the recent spate of accidents, brought on from fatigued mine workers?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Gregory for the question.

In March 2018, over \$570,000 of bitumen resurfacing was completed on nine kilometres (km) of the Fitzroy Developmental Road (FDR) between Dingo and Middlemount. These recently completed resurfacing works are in addition to over \$7.5 million in Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements works, drainage, pavement and surface repairs and annual maintenance activities delivered on FDR (north of Dingo), over the past five years (2013–14 to 2017–18).

In June 2018, the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) undertook an inspection of FDR between Dingo and Middlemount and identified a number of rough surface sections for repair under its maintenance program. TMR is currently working with local maintenance providers to program the maintenance repairs as a priority.

TMR has also worked closely with the Queensland Police Service to understand the contributing circumstances in the recent heavy vehicle crashes on the northern section of FDR. At this time, TMR understands fatigue may have contributed, however, it is also investigating feedback from motorists of potential shoulder drop between the resurfaced highway and gravel shoulder approximately 20 km north of Dingo. Any maintenance requirements identified from this investigation will be undertaken as a priority.

To communicate the major behavioural risks to road users who continue to contribute to serious road crashes and fatalities in Queensland, the Palaszczuk Government undertakes statewide awareness campaigns, such as the Fatal Five of which fatigue is one of the components. This messaging is delivered through advertising campaigns, roadside signage and events such as Road Safety Week.