

Question on Notice

No. 1397

Asked on Tuesday 17 September 2019

MR S ANDREW ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise on (a) operational budgets each Department of Transport and Main Roads region has to fund the provision of traffic control as part of scheduled road-side vegetation burn-offs and (b) measures to provide financial support to local councils to conduct such activities to the same standard on local roads?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Mirani for the question.

This financial year, the Department of Transport and Main Roads has allocated approximately \$1.2 million to manage bushfire risk from roadside vegetation. This budget includes the costs of hazard reduction burning high and extreme risk roadside vegetation and the provision of traffic management for these burns. The budgeted allocations on a regional basis are:

- Central Queensland \$277,000
- North Queensland \$274,000
- North Coast and Wide Bay Burnett \$187,000
- Downs South West \$183,000
- South Coast \$155,000
- Metropolitan \$74,000.

Funding for traffic management for roadside hazard reduction burning is included in the overall fire management budgets and is not a separate allocation.

The Palaszczuk Government focuses on the management of fire risk on state-controlled roads and does not provide financial support for burning roadside vegetation on council roads as this is the responsibility of council.

However, the Palaszczuk Government understands the importance of funding transport infrastructure in regional Queensland and supporting local government to manage their local roads. Our 2015 State Budget increased the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS) to \$70 million per annum, and each State Budget since then has seen this much needed funding continue.

In 2012, the former Newman LNP Government reduced TIDS funding from \$63.3 million to \$40 million per annum, a 37 per cent cut.