

Question on Notice

No. 163

Asked on 26 February 2019

MR C BOYCE ASKED DEPUTY PREMIER, TREASURER AND MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PARTNERSHIPS (HON J TRAD)—

QUESTION:

Will the Treasurer redirect the \$45M allocated to a 1.4 km suburban Brisbane bikeway to the flood victims in north west Queensland?

ANSWER:

The recent floods have had a devastating impact on communities in the north and north west of the State. The Palaszczuk Government is committed to providing every assistance it can to affected communities.

The full impact of this disaster on the state budget is yet to be determined. Early estimates indicate that approximately \$1.5 billion in assistance measures and reconstruction works will need to be funded jointly by the Commonwealth and State Governments through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

As at 26 March 2019, nearly \$60 million in recovery grants has been provided to the community, made up of \$30.2 million in Individual Assistance Grants provided to assist 116,140 people and \$28.5 million in Recovery Grants to primary producers and small business owners.

The Palaszczuk Government is focussed on what needs to be delivered for the disaster impacted communities of North Queensland and North West Queensland in the budget preparations which are currently underway.

Unfortunately, Queenslanders know all too well what it takes to rebuild after a natural disaster.

The same can be said of the Palaszczuk Government, following on from the recovery and rebuilding programs put in place after Tropical Cyclone Marcia and Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

It is thanks to a disciplined budget management strategy, and responsible revenue measures, that debt is down and the Government is in a position to assist the flood affected communities.

In relation to the suburban Brisbane bikeway project, this is a Department of Transport and Main Roads project and I am advised a contract was executed in July 2018. Construction of this project is now well underway, with completion expected by mid-2020. It would be impractical and costly to terminate this contract to reallocate the funding for another purpose.