

Question on Notice

No. 1716

Asked on Wednesday 23 October 2019

MR B MELLISH ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Strathpine Road and Gympie Arterial Road Interchange, and the proposed innovative diverging diamond upgrade (noting the 2019 budget announcement of a \$15m Palaszczuk Government funding commitment)—

Will the Minister provide an update on (a) how the planning for the project is proceeding and (b) how negotiations with the Federal Government for their share of funding are proceeding?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Aspley for the question.

As part of its record \$23 billion investment in roads and transport infrastructure under the *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2019–20 to 2022–23*, the Palaszczuk Government allocated \$15 million funding towards the Gympie Arterial Road upgrades, noting that our priority is upgrading the Strathpine Road interchange.

The Palaszczuk Government is currently undertaking design for the Gympie Arterial Road and Strathpine Road interchange at Bald Hills, with the design nearing completion. Survey works, including service location and structures condition, commenced in late-2018 and are ongoing.

The Strathpine Road interchange will be transformed into a diverging diamond interchange (DDI), which is a design that will reduce congestion, improve travel times and address safety concerns. A DDI is an innovative method of traffic management which has been used with great success in the United States of America to increase traffic efficiency and safety for all road users. The benefit of this type of interchange is that right-turning traffic does not have to give way to opposing traffic, making the interchange both safer and more efficient. A DDI is usually cheaper to construct and has less impact on residents because it requires a smaller footprint than a traditional diamond interchange.

The Strathpine Road interchange will be the second DDI in Australia, along with the Caloundra Road/Bruce Highway DDI, which is currently under construction.

The Palaszczuk Government has nominated the Strathpine Road interchange as its priority and has been in positive discussions with the Australian Government about allocation of its existing Urban Congestion Funding to match our commitment to the Strathpine Road interchange project.

Following completion of design, which is being funded solely by the Palaszczuk Government, and following agreement of the Australian Government to release its funds towards the project, the construction of the Strathpine Road DDI will be programmed by the Department of Transport and Main Roads, subject to procurement processes and weather conditions.