

Question on Notice

No. 1840

Asked on 26 November 2019

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

QUESTION:

Will the Treasurer advise why the Queensland Government is refusing to invest in the important projects included in the Hinkler Regional Deal which will benefit the Bundaberg electorate?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government is committed to Bundaberg and the broader Wide Bay Burnett region, and is delivering more than \$587 million in infrastructure for the region under the state budget this financial year.

The Queensland Government is not a signatory to the Hinkler Regional Deal because the Morrison Government refused to negotiate or reach an agreement on key matters, including the proposed boundary. Regional Deals require a genuine partnership, and cannot be imposed from Canberra without regard to the views of the state or local governments.

Despite this, the Queensland Government has agreed to facilitate the flow-through of funding for Hinkler Regional Deal projects to ensure the community does not miss out. Queensland Treasury officials are currently working with their federal counterparts to develop the necessary funding agreements where they are required.

In addition, the Queensland Government is providing funding to ensure the following projects can proceed:

- Torbanlea-Pialba Road upgrade;
- Bargara Road upgrade;
- Buxton Road intersection upgrade; and
- Isis Overtaking Lane project.

I am also advised the Department of Transport and Main Roads has commenced the development of a Bundaberg Integrated Transport Strategy, in close cooperation with Bundaberg Regional Council, that will identify the strategic needs of Bundaberg's transport system, including investigating the future transport infrastructure needs should the function of Quay Street change.

Beyond this, I understand no further funding is presently required for the Hinkler Regional Deal projects. I am advised the Australian Government made no formal request to Queensland Treasury for specific project funding during the deal negotiation.

The only communities who are currently missing out are those areas that the Morrison Government has excluded from the Hinkler Regional Deal, including the important regional centre of Maryborough. No other City or Regional Deal is based on a federal electorate boundary, and Queenslanders should not accept a sub-optimal outcome merely to satisfy the political needs of the Morrison Government.