

Question on Notice

No. 295

Asked on Tuesday 26 March 2019

MS A LEAHY ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the recent tragic death at Yuleba and the repeated requests from the community and Maranoa Regional Council to reduce the speed limit from 80km to 60km per hour—

Will the Minister provide the results of the safety audit conducted by the Department of Transport and Main Roads?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Warrego for the question.

My thoughts and condolences are with the family and friends on the passing of their loved one.

I can confirm the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) engaged an external consultant to conduct an independent road safety audit of the Warrego Highway past Yuleba.

There were 11 recommendations in the report. Seven of these recommendations have been completed by TMR, including: installing pedestrian warning signs at the Yuleba Service Station and the Yuleba Hotel; extending the double barrier centre-line outside the Yuleba Service Station; relocating the existing 'Give-Way' line and sign closer to the through carriageway at Perry Street; installing an 80 km/h speed limit sign west of the Yuleba–Taroom Road intersection; and undertaking two engineering assessments on the risk of a vehicle leaving the road and crashing, due to roadside hazards along the Warrego Highway and the intersection with Perry Street. On 15 January 2019, TMR wrote to Maranoa Regional Council to advise that these works had been completed.

TMR is currently investigating options to implement the remaining four recommendations from the report, which include: providing full width shoulder sealing; investigating converting existing right-turn facilities into dedicated right-turn facilities into Perry Street; investigating the provision of sealed basic right-turn facilities at all intersections; and considering the provision of suitable pedestrian access at ground level adjacent to the bridge. Funding to complete these works will be considered against statewide priorities.

I can also advise that TMR will be installing signage and road markings at Yuleba as part of the Town Entry Treatments (TET) program along the Warrego Highway. The TET for Yuleba is scheduled to be installed by the end of June 2019.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to the delivery of transport infrastructure and the provision of a safe and reliable network for Queenslanders.

The \$635 million Warrego Highway Upgrade Program is funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments on an 80:20 funding split arrangement, which comprises 20 projects planned for delivery by 2021. The program is designed to upgrade the Warrego Highway between Toowoomba and west of Miles.

Twelve projects are now complete following the recent completion of the Dalby to Miles Overtaking Lanes and the Drillham to Palardo Upgrade in March 2019. Construction will begin in May on the final package of the Oakey to Miles Safety Upgrade—the Colamba Street signals project—which is being delivered with the Chinchilla Open Level Crossing Upgrade by early 2020.

I am pleased to report that five further projects have been included in the Warrego Highway Upgrade Program thanks to savings realised from completed projects. The five additional projects are the Oakey to Miles Safety Upgrade Stage 2, the Dalby to Miles Pavement Widening and Safety Upgrade, the Carroll Creek Culvert Replacement project, and the Warrego Highway East Creek and West Creek Culvert Upgrade projects in Toowoomba. Three of the savings projects are currently being delivered, with pre-tender works underway for the Warrego Highway East Creek and West Creek Culvert Upgrades.

These investments are part of the record \$21.7 billion investment in the *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program* over four years 2018–19 to 2022–23.