

Question on Notice

No. 381

Asked on Wednesday 27 March 2019

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Palmerston arterial highway connecting the tablelands to the coast—

Will the Minister outline his commitment to further upgrades of the highway to ensure safety of users over the next 12 months?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Hill for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to improving safety on the state-controlled road network and delivering better and safer roads for Far North Queenslanders.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is progressing a \$3 million rehabilitation project on the Palmerston Highway between Innisfail and Ravenshoe. The works will be undertaken by TMR's RoadTek branch and are expected to commence in August 2019, with completion expected by the end of the year, weather permitting.

TMR is also investigating options to improve safety at the Palmerston Highway and Henderson Drive intersection. The options analysis will be used to evaluate a range of intersection upgrade options to allow safe, B-double turning movements and future proof the intersection. The investigations are expected to be complete in late 2019.

In the 2017–18 and 2018–19 financial years, \$3 million of rehabilitation works were completed on the Palmerston Highway. TMR has recently installed new directional signage at Millaa Millaa to clearly identify the B-double route at the junction of Palmerston Highway and East Evelyn Road. The new signage provides clear directions for freight operators and tourists travelling to Ravenshoe and Malanda.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to providing a safe road network in the electorate of Hill, and is currently delivering a number of projects with priority given to locations with highest traffic volumes and history of crashes.

These projects include a \$3.9 million project to upgrade the intersection of Innisfail–Japoon Road with the Bruce Highway, a \$6.1 million project to upgrade the intersection of Ash, Pine and Blackwood Streets with the Bruce Highway, \$447,000 project to upgrade the River Avenue Cycleway, the \$18 million Mission Beach Clump Point boating infrastructure project, the \$3.2 million Bruce Highway Rest Area Upgrade project and a \$3.8 million project to upgrade the intersection of Munro Street and the Bruce Highway in Babinda.

These investments are part of the Palaszczuk Government's record \$21.4 billion investment in the *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2018–19 to 2021–22* (QTRIP) over four years, and can be contrasted with the approach of the former Newman LNP Government which cut more than \$600 million from QTRIP during its term in office.