

Question on Notice

No. 443

Asked on Tuesday 2 April 2019

MR J MADDEN ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the proposed upgrade of the Mt Crosby Road Warrego Highway Interchange—

Will the Minister advise the (a) process to obtain funding for the project from the Federal Government, (b) action taken by the State Government to obtain this funding and (c) contribution that the State Government is seeking from the Federal Government?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Ipswich West for the question.

The Warrego Highway forms part of the National Land Transport Network, for which the Australian Government has primary funding responsibility. Accordingly, the Palaszczuk Government expects to receive 80 per cent Australian Government funding for future upgrades to the Warrego Highway, consistent with the *National Land Transport Act 2014* (Cth).

The Act establishes the framework in which the Australian Government funds national land transport infrastructure and underpins the *National Partnership Agreement on Land Transport Infrastructure Projects* between the Australian Government and states and territories.

In 2012, the Bligh Labor Government released the *Warrego Highway Upgrade Strategy* (the strategy) to improve the safety, reliability, capacity, transport efficiency and flood immunity on the highway.

The strategy outlines a 20-year vision to increase the standard of the Warrego Highway, and includes short-, medium- and long-term priorities spanning the length of the highway between Brisbane and Charleville.

This strategy identifies the need for safety and capacity improvements between the Brisbane to Toowoomba section, which includes the Mount Crosby interchange.

In 2017, the Department of Transport and Main Roads completed an investigation for an interim upgrade of the Mount Crosby Road and Warrego Highway interchange. The investigation reviewed options for minor upgrade works to reduce vehicle queuing on the highway ramps, improve the function of the roundabouts and improve active transport safety. The estimated cost of this interim upgrade is \$22 million.

In 2018, the Palaszczuk Government submitted a Stage 1 submission for the eastern section of the Warrego Highway (Brisbane to Toowoomba) to Infrastructure Australia (IA) for inclusion in its Infrastructure Priority List as a nationally significant initiative.

Following a positive assessment by IA, the 'Warrego Highway East Corridor Improvements' proposal was included on the Infrastructure Priority List, released in February 2019, as a 'Priority Initiative'.

In the 2019 Federal Budget, the Australian Government announced:

- \$320 million additional funding for the Warrego Highway, based on 80:20 federal:state funding arrangements. However, only \$30 million of this funding is allocated in 2022–23, with the balance of \$290 million allocated from 2023–24 onwards

- \$60 million for the Warrego Highway, between Ipswich and Toowoomba, under the 10-year Roads of Strategic Importance initiative, based on 80:20 federal:state funding arrangements. However, only \$11.02 million of this is allocated over three years from 2020–21, with the balance of \$48.98 million allocated from 2023–24 onwards.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to delivering safety and capacity improvements to the Warrego Highway and will work with the incoming Australian Government to prioritise funding for important upgrades.