

Question on Notice

No. 462

Asked on Tuesday 2 April 2019

MR S O'CONNOR ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise why residents of 'The Surrounds' in Helensvale were not sent any correspondence about the change of corridor for the Coomera Connector as shown in the difference between the 2019 gazetted documents released on 15 March 2019 to the previously released documents from 2017?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Bonney for the question, although I do not accept its premise.

I am advised that to declare a corridor of land as a future state-controlled road, or to make changes to an existing declaration, under the *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994*, the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is legislatively required to notify relevant local governments of its intention to make such a declaration. On 14 January 2019, TMR formally notified the City of Gold Coast of its intention to make an amendment to the existing declaration of future state-controlled road in the Helensvale area.

While not legislatively required to do so, on 14 January 2019, TMR formally wrote to directly impacted land owners about the intention to make an amendment to the existing declaration of a future state-controlled road in the Helensvale area. This was in addition to notification and consultation which commenced prior to and continued after the original gazettal decision. TMR will continue to consult with the community.

Any future road project will have to go through an options analysis and a business case, as well as detailed planning and design and environmental assessment.

The northern Gold Coast is a rapidly developing area which will require new road and transport infrastructure in the future. As a responsible government, the Palaszczuk Government took the steps necessary to protect the corridor and preserve it for use as a future state-controlled road. This compares with the Newman LNP Government which removed the proposed road corridor from long-term planning documents for the Gold Coast.

The Palaszczuk Government continues to invest in the Gold Coast, with significant investment in stages 1 and 2 of the light rail, heavy rail duplication, three new heavy rail stations, and major investment in building a better M1.