

## Question on Notice

No. 581

Asked on Thursday 4 April 2019

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

### QUESTION:

With reference to the Federal Government Budget estimates (out to 2023-24) not mentioning funding for Stage 2 of the Mackay Ring Road or Walkerston Bypass—

Will the Minister advise if the Queensland Government will provide assurances that it can instead fund the entire \$150m required and begin construction per the announced schedule?

### ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Mirani for the question.

In the 2019–20 Federal Budget brought down on 2 April 2019 and associated advice to Queensland, the Australian Government committed \$280 million in federal funding for the Bruce Highway–Mackay Ring Road Stage 2 project, known as the Mackay Port Access Road. However, this funding has been allocated outside the forward estimates (that is, from 2023–24 onwards). The project has a total project cost of \$350 million and will consider its position in respect of any State funding in due course.

The Walkerston Bypass is a new 10.4 km link between the Peak Downs Highway and the southern end of Mackay Ring Road around Walkerston, which will offer a safer and more efficient link for the northern Bowen Basin to Mackay and the industrial area of Paget. This project is an existing \$150 million commitment under the current National Partnership Agreement, funded on an 80:20 federal:state basis, with the Palaszczuk Government already committing its \$30 million share, as outlined in the four-year *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2019–20 to 2022–23* (QTRIP).

The Department of Transport and Main Roads is progressing through the required Australian Government administration requirements (Project Proposal Report submission), towards a target construction commencement of mid-2020.

The Palaszczuk Government's commitment to the Walkerston Bypass is part of its record \$21.7 billion QTRIP, which will support 19,000 jobs over the life of the program. The Palaszczuk Government will also continue to fight for Queensland's fair share of federal funding for important roads and transport infrastructure to support the needs of our growing state.