

Question on Notice

No. 667

Asked on Wednesday 1 May 2019

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise what specific amount of funding was requested from the Federal Government for Stage 3A of the Gold Coast Light Rail and how much funding the Queensland Government is prepared to commit?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Bonney for the question.

The capital cost estimate to deliver the Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 3A (GCLR3A) project is \$709 million as detailed in Building Queensland's (BQ) December 2018 *Infrastructure Pipeline Report*.

The GCLR3A detailed business case was endorsed by the BQ Board on 20 December 2018. It was issued to Infrastructure Australia (IA) on 8 February 2019 and added to the IA Priority list on 14 February 2019. IA is now assessing the detailed business case as an independent statutory body prioritising nationally significant infrastructure.

On 5 November 2018, the Australian Government announced a funding commitment to GCLR3A of \$112 million, significantly less than the 38 per cent proportion of funding provided by the Australian Government for Stage 1. The Palaszczuk Government has consistently stated this is the appropriate funding formula. During the federal election campaign, the Federal LNP reiterated it would not increase the funding amount.

The \$112 million will cover only about 16 per cent of the project's cost, leaving a \$157.5 million shortfall compared to the Stage 1 funding formula.

On 9 April 2019, in a letter sent to the Honourable Karen Andrews MP, Minister for Industry, Science and Technology, the \$157.5 million shortfall figure was provided, urging Minister Andrews to lobby her Australian Government counterparts for a fair funding deal for this important project.

On 8 May 2019, Minister Andrews suggested that the project be rescope and the track shortened by 700 metres as the Australian Government was not going to provide any additional funding, other than the \$112 million it had already pledged.

The Federal LNP needs to provide its fair share of funding for the project.