

## Question on Notice

No. 68

Asked on Wednesday 13 February 2019

**MRS S WILSON** ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

### QUESTION:

With reference to the \$20m Federal funding to upgrade Bribie Island Road—

Will the Minister advise (a) why it is taking so long to agree to add this project to the Queensland schedule of the National Partnership Agreement on Land Transport Infrastructure Projects and (b) what assurances can the Minister provide that local job opportunities will flow from road works under this Federal funding?

### ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Pumicestone for the question.

- a) On 6 July 2018, the Australian Government committed \$20 million to upgrade Bribie Island Road. The Deputy Prime Minister advised on 6 November 2018 that this commitment will be funded from savings within the existing Queensland program, which suggests the Australian Government is no longer intending to provide any new or additional funding to Queensland for upgrades.

I have written to the Australian Government seeking clarification of its commitment to upgrade Bribie Island Road—including confirmation to allocate the full \$20 million in new federal funding—and seeking agreement to work together to identify preferred candidate projects to be funded under this commitment.

The Palaszczuk Government remains committed to delivering improvements on Bribie Island Road, with \$10.4 million allocated in *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2018–19 to 2021–22* to upgrade the intersection of Bribie Island and Old Toorbul Point Roads to improve safety and relieve congestion.

- b) The Palaszczuk Government is committed to giving Queensland businesses the best possible opportunity to tender for major government procurements through the *Queensland Charter for Local Content* (the charter). The charter has the core objective of maximising local content through the participation of capable, local industry in government procurement activities, and applies where funding over \$20 million is provided by the Australian Government through the Queensland Government.

The charter recognises that involving local industry in government procurement provides economic benefits to all parties, contributing to wealth generation and the creation of employment opportunities for Queensland. The charter is also consistent with the *Queensland Procurement Policy* (QPP), which aims to put Queenslanders first when securing value for money. One of the ways this is applied is by conducting a local benefits test on the Department of Transport and Main Roads' major infrastructure.

Both the charter and QPP encourage suppliers to provide local benefits, which may include using local suppliers. Past experience has shown that infrastructure construction projects typically use a high percentage of local components, as doing otherwise would not provide competitive tender prices.