

## Question on Notice

No. 922

Asked on Tuesday 11 June 2019

**MR T WATTS** ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

### QUESTION:

With reference to answer to Question on Notice No. 1599 regarding the upgrade of the North and Ruthven Street intersection and the Minister's advice of December 2018 'that work is now well underway'—

Will the Minister advise if any of the following project milestones have been reached - community consultation, engineering and surveying, design, relocation of utilities and services, and construction?

### ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Toowoomba North for the question.

I note the Member asked Questions on Notice 1555 in 2016 and 1599 in 2018 about this intersection.

This \$6 million Palaszczuk Government election commitment will be used to fund upgrade works to improve the efficiency of the intersection, aiming to reduce traffic congestion. The upgrade of the New England Highway (Ruthven Street) and North Street intersection requires several steps to be completed before construction can begin to ensure the Department of Transport and Main Roads gets the planning right and the best option is chosen.

I am pleased to advise that design for this project, including consultation with directly and indirectly affected businesses and property owners, survey needs, and underground services relocation requirements is well underway. Construction is currently expected to commence in early-2020.

The Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program (QTRIP) details the current and planned transport and road infrastructure projects that the Palaszczuk Government plans to deliver, over four years, to meet the needs of a rapidly growing Queensland.

In this year's State Budget, we announced a record \$23 billion QTRIP which will deliver the roads and transport infrastructure our growing state needs while sustaining 21,500 jobs across Queensland during the life of the program. This was the Palaszczuk Government's fourth record QTRIP out of five delivered.

Last financial year, the Palaszczuk Government completed works in the Toowoomba area on the western section of the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing, opening it to traffic in December 2018. In addition, planning for the Warrego Highway Upgrade Program – Toowoomba to Oakey Duplication Planning Stage 3 (Kingsthorpe to Oakey) was completed.

In the 2019–20 financial year, the Palaszczuk Government is committed to meeting this election commitment, as well as commencing work on the Toowoomba East Creek and West Creek Culvert Upgrade projects on the Warrego Highway near the centre of the city.

The strong investment by the Palaszczuk Government, its track record of job creation (with over 207,000 jobs now created), and our record of keeping Queensland's assets in public hands, can be starkly contrasted with the approach of the former Newman LNP Government where \$600 million was cut from QTRIP, 14,000 workers were sacked from their jobs, and millions of dollars of taxpayers' money was spent trying to sell Queensland's assets.