

## Question on Notice

No. 937

Asked on Wednesday 12 June 2019

**MR A HARPER** ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

### QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how the \$5m in funding to advance the Woodstock-Giru intersection on the Flinders Highway benefit the Imperium3 battery manufacturing and Drivelt NQ proposals?

### ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Thuringowa for the question.

In this year's State Budget, the Palaszczuk Government announced \$5 million in funding to advance the case for improved road access to the Lansdown industrial precinct.

This necessary work will consider key infrastructure upgrades on the Flinders Highway, including the Woodstock–Giru Road intersection, to facilitate safe and efficient access to the Lansdown industrial precinct. It will build on previous planning, including the Lansdown options analysis which was a commitment under the Townsville City Deal, and was completed by the Palaszczuk Government in late-2018.

The Lansdown industrial precinct may, in future, accommodate the proposed Drivelt NQ, along with other innovative and job-creating industries, including a lithium-ion battery-manufacturing facility.

The Palaszczuk Government welcomes Townsville City Council's recent call for tenders from proponents looking to lease or buy land in the precinct. The work being undertaken to prepare for future infrastructure upgrades on the Flinders Highway and at the Woodstock–Giru Road intersection will facilitate access to the Lansdown industrial precinct and support future job creation. It will also help to further open development opportunities within this major industrial and export estate.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to driving economic growth in our regions, including in Townsville. With \$14.5 billion allocated to a roads and transport program outside the Metropolitan region, the Palaszczuk Government is focused on creating jobs, building roads and transport infrastructure and supporting local business and industry.

In recent years, the Palaszczuk Government has delivered key infrastructure upgrades in the Townsville region, including the \$118.9 million upgrade at Cattle and Frances Creeks on the Bruce Highway near Ingham, the \$43.5 million Riverway Drive Duplication and the \$200 million Townsville Ring Road Section 4 project.

Over the next four years, more than 1200 jobs will be supported in the Townsville region because of the \$1.5 billion that the Palaszczuk Government is investing in major infrastructure upgrades including:

- Haughton River Floodplain upgrade – \$514.3 million
- Townsville Ring Road Stage 5 project – \$180 million
- widening and safety improvements on the Bruce Highway between Mailman Road and Mackenzie Creek – \$43 million
- construction of the Reid Park Active Transport Bridge – \$7.4 million.

The Palaszczuk Government has also contributed \$75 million toward the \$193 million Townsville Port Channel Upgrade project, which is the first stage of a long-term Port Expansion Program. Port of Townsville Limited is progressing the works which mainly involves dredging to widen the channel to enable larger ships to access the port and improve freight cargo scope and productivity for Northern Australia. The dredging work is planned to commence in 2020 with the dredged material being beneficially reused to create a reclamation area to increase the amount of land available for future development and operations at the Port of Townsville. The project is scheduled for completion in 2023. The Townsville Port Channel Upgrade is a joint project of the Queensland and Australian Governments, and Port of Townsville Limited. The Channel Upgrade forms part of the Townsville City Deal signed in December 2016.

The Palaszczuk Government is also investing hundreds of millions of dollars to maintain and improve the Mount Isa to Townsville rail line. In addition to this, the Palaszczuk Government has committed to reduce rail access charges on the Mount Isa to Townsville rail line to drive a shift from road to rail which will help support job-creating resource projects in the North West Minerals Province.