

## Question on Notice

No. 968

Asked on Wednesday 12 June 2019

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

### QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise when the Queensland Government proposes to fully bitumen the May Downs-Clarke Creek Road and finish the decades delayed job with a flood tolerant bridge over the Isaac River?

### ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Mirani for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government has invested a record \$23 billion in the *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program (QTRIP) 2019–20 to 2022–23*. Of this, approximately \$14.5 billion has been allocated to projects in regional Queensland.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is currently developing a strategy for upgrading May Downs Road and Isaac River Bridge, including the identification of priority sections.

As planning work matures and construction schedules and costings become clear, the government will be able to consider funding allocations, having regard to competing statewide priorities. In the meantime, TMR will continually monitor the condition of state-controlled roads, with regular maintenance works undertaken on this stretch to ensure the road is in safe condition.

Within the Mirani electorate in the last 12 months, the Palaszczuk Government has delivered reconstruction works on the Sarina Range following severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie. Eligible reconstruction works were jointly funded under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA). Works were completed in December 2018.

As a result of the necessary closure of Sarina Range, \$5.7 million in upgrades and \$2.7 million in complementary safety works was provided to upgrade the recommended detour route of Koumala–Bolingbroke Road. The upgrade provided more than 12 kilometres of continuous sealed road from Koumala and through the Koumala Range. These works were completed in November 2018.

In partnership with the Australian Government, construction has started on a \$14.8 million project to provide three new overtaking lanes on the Bruce Highway near St Lawrence, and upgrades to build a two-lane roundabout and duplicate approaches on the Bruce Highway at Sarina, as part of the \$14.4 million Sarina Northern Access Upgrade project, are underway.

In QTRIP, approximately \$2.7 billion of transport and road infrastructure will be delivered in Central Queensland. In the Mirani electorate, major roads projects, including projects funded in partnership with the Australian Government, include the \$497.4 million Mackay Ring Road (stage 1) project, \$189.3 million to upgrade the Peak Downs Highway at Eton Range, \$150 million to build a new two-lane bypass at Walkerston Bypass on the Peak Downs Highway, west of Mackay, and a combined \$157 million Rockhampton Northern Access Upgrade and Terranova Drive intersection upgrade project.

There is a further \$75 million to duplicate a section of the Capricorn Highway between Rockhampton and Gracemere, \$43.8 million to build new overtaking lanes, in addition to widening and surfacing about 18 kilometres of the Bruce Highway, north of Benaraby.

Also in the Mirani electorate, \$19 million is allocated to build six new overtaking lanes on the Capricorn Highway, between Gracemere and Emerald; \$18.3 million worth of safety works on the Bruce Highway, between Nielsen Avenue and Plentiful Creek, north of Rockhampton; \$9.4 million to build new overtaking lanes at Plentiful Creek on the Bruce Highway, north of Rockhampton; and \$14.5 million for widening and safety upgrades on Bajool–Port Alma Road.

Only the Palaszczuk Government can be trusted to deliver the roads and transport infrastructure our growing regions need. The Palaszczuk Government's approach can be contrasted with that of the former Newman LNP Government, which cut \$600 million from QTRIP, sacked 14,000 workers from their jobs, and spent millions of dollars of taxpayers' money trying to sell Queensland's assets.