

Question on Notice

No. 35

Asked on Tuesday 4 February 2020

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

QUESTION:

With reference to damage to the eastbound lane of the Toowoomba Bypass —

Will the Minister (a) advise what has caused damage on the eastbound lane, (b) assure all road users that the structural integrity of any section or the entirety of the Bypass has not been affected, (c) advise what is the scope of works being undertaken to repair the damage and how long these works expected to take, (d) advise if toll charges will be revised while repairs are being undertaken to mitigate the impact on commercial traffic using the Bypass and (e) advise what is the cost of the repairs and how these costs are being met?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Toowoomba North for the question.

Nexus Infrastructure was awarded the contract to design, construct, operate and maintain the \$1.6 billion Toowoomba Bypass. As part of the contract, it is responsible for operating and maintaining the Bypass for the next 25 years, until 2044.

I am pleased to advise that:

- a) The minor corrugations in the asphalt surfacing applied by Nexus on the 800-metre viaduct appear to be related to the surface texture of the concrete bridge deck, on which the wearing surface is laid, not being 'rough' enough to provide a 'key' to resist slight movement of the asphalt surfacing under heavy loads on the road. The issue is isolated to the asphalt and the bridge deck surface and is not related in any way to the structural integrity of the viaduct.
- b) The structural integrity of the remaining 40kms of the Toowoomba Bypass has not been affected as a result of asphalt corrugation.
- c) The asphalt surfacing of the eastbound slow lane was removed and the texture of the deck enhanced, followed by placement of a new asphalt surface by Nexus. These repair works are now completed.

The repairs will be monitored for performance and, if successful, the same treatment will be adopted on the remaining three lanes of the viaduct. These works are expected to take a further eight to nine days in March/April 2020, weather permitting. While the repairs are underway, the traffic will be reduced to one lane and the speed limit reduced to 60km/h adjacent to the lane being repaired. Traffic on the opposite side of the road to the repairs will have access to two lanes.

- d) As observed during the temporary repairs, there has been minimal impact on travel times as a result of lane closure for the repair works. Toll charges will remain the same while the repairs are being undertaken.
- e) The repairs are a matter for Nexus Infrastructure to deal with at their cost. They have not made the cost of the repairs known to the Department of Transport and Main Roads.