

## Question on Notice

No. 788

Asked on 16 July 2020

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

### QUESTION:

With reference to the Hamilton Plains flood mitigation project near Proserpine—

Will the Minister advise (a) the timeframe to complete the project given both the Federal and the Queensland Governments have allocated funding and (b) if this project is a priority for the Whitsunday Electorate at Proserpine given the project needs the Department of Transport and Main Roads to draw up the plans for construction?

### ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Mirani for the question.

The Queensland Government recognises that flood impacts on Proserpine–Shute Harbour Road cause disruptions to the community, businesses and visitors in the Whitsunday electorate.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has previously completed a business case for Hamilton Plains, which will contribute to identifying the most suitable option to improve accessibility and resilience on Proserpine–Shute Harbour Road across Hamilton Plains.

In addition to funding the development of the business case for Hamilton Plains, the Palaszczuk Government has committed \$380,000 for an options analysis and business case for improved immunity across Myrtle Creek, east of Hamilton Plains. I am advised that this planning project will be finalised shortly.

The Member would be aware that Myrtle Creek and Proserpine River meet at Hamilton Plains. This confluence results in a complex hydraulic environment. By assessing the flood issues identified in both planning projects—Myrtle Creek and Hamilton Plains together—TMR will be able to develop effective options to address the flood immunity of Shute Harbour Road at Hamilton Plains.

Strategically, a one-in-10-year flood immunity level at Hamilton Plains would eliminate nuisance flooding on this section of Proserpine–Shute Harbour Road and significantly reduce the impact of road closures on the community. The road design solution for this floodplain needs to achieve a balance between improved immunity and trafficability, without resulting in an afflux problem for surrounding farmland.

TMR has not yet confirmed a cost estimate for delivery of the works on Proserpine–Shute Harbour Road. The recommendations from these planning projects will inform the scope of works and project cost.

In late 2019, \$37 million was committed through the Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) initiative for upgrades on Proserpine–Shute Harbour Road (\$29.6 million from the Australian Government and \$7.4 million from the Queensland Government). An amount of \$25 million of this commitment is for the future upgrades in Hamilton Plains, which is programmed in the latter years of the *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2019–20 to 2022–23*.

During the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2019 (financial years 2015–16 to 2018–19), the Palaszczuk Government delivered approximately \$806.7 million of transport and roads infrastructure investment specifically in TMR's Mackay Whitsunday district. This includes investment in key projects such as:

- Mackay–Slade Point Road (Mackay), Vines Creek, replace bridges, completed 2018
- Peak Downs Highway (Nebo–Mackay), replace various timber bridges, completed 2018, (jointly-funded by the Australian and Queensland governments).

Further, as part of the jointly-funded \$12.6 billion Bruce Highway Upgrade Program, TMR is delivering upgrades between Rockhampton and Proserpine including:

- \$1 billion Rockhampton Ring Road
- \$121 million Rockhampton Northern Access (Stage 1) duplication
- \$497.4 million Mackay Ring Road (Stage 1)
- \$28.43 million Hampden–Kuttabul rehabilitation and widening
- \$12.57 million Collingvale Road overtaking lanes.

As part of our COVID-19 economic recovery response, in partnership with the Australian Government, the Palaszczuk Government has announced \$1 billion in new and accelerated funding for road improvements right across Queensland. This funding injection will deliver freight efficiency benefits, improve road safety, sustain local jobs and lift the state's economy. Overall, this \$1 billion of investment in road network improvements is estimated to support approximately 1000 jobs.

This includes more than \$400 million funding in projects announced by the Palaszczuk Government for Queensland roads to supercharge the State's economy through the COVID-19 recovery. This was announced as part of Queensland's Economic Recovery Strategy: *Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs*, to help the State recover from COVID-19 with a focus on backing Queensland jobs.

Projects to receive new funding in TMR's Mackay Whitsunday district as part of the roads stimulus package include:

- \$13 million to duplicate Proserpine–Shute Harbour Road (Valley Drive to Tropic Road) duplication
- \$8 million Koumala – Bolingbroke Road for progressive sealing.

Further to this, the Palaszczuk Government is investing an additional \$90.3 million as part of a joint \$415 million Australian and Queensland government package to deliver shovel-ready projects across the State, supporting a further 700 jobs, and has agreed project accelerations of \$185 million jointly as part of the Australian Government's ROSI initiative. These packages include the following projects which will also benefit constituents in the Mirani electorate:

- \$18 million for road safety improvements on the Peak Downs Highway (Mackay – Eton)
- \$8 million to progressively seal sections of May Downs Road
- \$12 million to duplicate Proserpine – Shute Harbour Road (Paluma Road to Valley Drive).