

## Question on Notice

No. 1093

Asked on 15 September 2021

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

### QUESTION:

With reference to the proposed Coomera Connector interchange at Helensvale Road—

Will the Minister inform residents, if Main Roads will financially assist Gold Coast City Council in upgrading Helensvale Road to properly cater for the expected increase in traffic?

### ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Theodore for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government is delivering its sixth record transport and roads infrastructure program, outlining \$27.5 billion in investment over the next four years and is estimated to support an average of 24,000 direct jobs over the life of the program. Of this, \$4.806 billion is committed across the Department of Transport and Main Roads' (TMR) South Coast Region, which is estimated to support an average of 4030 direct jobs over the life of the program.

As part of this investment, the Palaszczuk Government has locked in \$1.53 billion to build Stage 1 of the Coomera Connector, jointly funded with the Australian Government on a 50:50 federal: state basis. This contrasts with the approach of the previous LNP Newman Government which cut the Coomera Connector from strategic planning documents for the Gold Coast and did not preserve a corridor. Our plan will take 60,000 cars a day off the M1 and provide for additional capacity from Coomera to Nerang.

TMR is working closely with Gold Coast City Council on the planning of the Coomera Connector. Coomera Connector Stage 1 North will build the interchange with Helensvale Road, including the associated upgrade of Helensvale Road in the immediate vicinity of the Coomera Connector interchange ramps.

Council's responsibility—as part of overall transport planning for the area—is to provide the supporting road network infrastructure, which is funded through the developer contributions that Gold Coast City Council collects. TMR's contribution towards mitigating the traffic impacts experienced as a result of the continuing population growth in the northern Gold Coast area and its surrounds is through funding and building bulk trunk infrastructure, such as the Coomera Connector.

TMR project officers meet frequently with council to plan the delivery of cross-agency infrastructure, such as the Coomera Connector. This helps to minimise impacts to the local community while also addressing the needs of broader communities. Targeted solutions within these inter-agency forums continue to consider the delivery of infrastructure which provides value for money for Queenslanders.

With the pandemic impacting Queensland businesses and communities, significant road upgrades will be delivered to help stimulate the economy as part of *Queensland's COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan*. These upgrades provide immediate economic benefits, support more jobs and deliver ongoing benefits of vital infrastructure for years to come.