

Question on Notice

No. 186

Asked on 10 March 2021

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the proposed Barrs Road overpass being progressed as part of the Beerburrum to Nambour Rail Upgrade—

Will the Minister advise (a) if Marshs/Barrs/Moffatt/Johnston Roads will become the new heavy haulage route (replacing Coonowrin Road and Steve Irwin Way), (b) if Sunshine Coast Regional Council have been involved in design plans for the overpass, (c) if Marshs/Barrs Roads will be upgraded to address the surface of the road, width of the road, bends and crests in the road and flooding and (d) what efforts will be taken to accommodate increased traffic with existing residential and tourism traffic, both vehicular and pedestrian (given many tourists walk from neighbouring railway stations to Mt Tibrogargan via Barrs Road)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Glass House for the question.

As part of the Beerburrum to Nambour Rail Upgrade, I can confirm the following in relation to the Barrs Road overpass.

- (a) Following public release of the 2016 reference design, Sunshine Coast Council (SCC) advised that an option to connect Barrs Road more directly to Moffatts Road to the east of the railway was preferred and this option was incorporated into the updated concept design in 2019. This rail upgrade project does not alter haulage routes.
- (b) The project team has worked closely with SCC since 2016 and council has provided advice and input into the design for the Barrs Road overpass.
- (c) Marshs/Barrs Roads are SCC owned and managed assets. Any upgrade to these roads would be delivered by the local government authority.
- (d) A recreation trail to connect the Glass House township and Barrs Road along the western side of the rail line is currently in the planning phase. Consultation for the recreation trail commenced in late 2020, with online engagement now open for public comment. I can also confirm that the project team consults regularly with SCC and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service across a range of matters.

The *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program* (QTRIP) 2020–21 to 2023–24 represents a record investment in road and transport infrastructure for the fifth year in a row, with \$26.9 billion in works committed over the next four years, supporting an average of approximately 23,600 direct jobs over the life of the program. Of this, \$3.612 billion is committed across the Department of Transport and Main Roads' North Coast Region, which is estimated to support an average of 3200 direct jobs over the life of the program.

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

The QTRIP 2020–21 to 2023–24 includes continued delivery of the \$12.6 billion, 15-year jointly funded program to upgrade the Bruce Highway, the continued delivery of more than \$3.4 billion in upgrades on the M1 Pacific Motorway, the commencement of the \$1.53 billion Coomera Connector (Stage 1) project between Nerang and Coomera, over \$1 billion for dedicated and targeted initiatives to bolster the Queensland Government's commitment to road safety, the \$709.9 million Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 3 project, and a \$1 billion new pipeline of rail projects that includes making trains again in Queensland.