

Question on Notice

No. 231

Asked on 11 March 2021

DR M ROBINSON ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the full original Eastern Busway project (with substantial tunnelling) from the city to Capalaba, and the Cleveland Line Rail Duplication; and with the likelihood of Queensland hosting the 2032 Olympic Games and the high probability that Chandler and Redlands will assist with host venues—

Will the Minister (a) agree to restart the process of actioning business cases for these projects and (b) provide the projected timeframes for start and finish dates of the business cases?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Oodgeroo for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government remains committed to delivering efficient and reliable bus and rail connections for the residents of eastern Brisbane and Redland City along the Eastern Bus Corridor and Cleveland rail line. This commitment is reflected in both corridors being identified for improvement within *ShapingSEQ*, the regional plan for South East Queensland, and the recently released *South East Queensland Regional Transport Plans*.

Both corridors play important, complementary roles in accommodating fast, frequent and reliable connections to eastern Brisbane and Redland City. Accordingly, the Palaszczuk Government will continue to invest in supporting them through cost-effective upgrades.

Investigation of options to provide additional capacity for increased frequency on the Cleveland rail line are underway. These investigations will seek cost-effective options to accommodate increased frequency and will inform our forward rail investment program.

The Eastern Bus Corridor will be an important frequent and fast connection for Cross River Rail at Park Road and Brisbane City Council's Brisbane Metro at Buranda. The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) continues to review the best approach to the Eastern Bus Corridor, and to protect and prepare to deliver additional stages of the Eastern Busway.

TMR is currently delivering Stage 1 of the Eastern Transitway along Old Cleveland Road through Carindale. TMR is also working with Brisbane City Council to develop interim solutions for other parts of the eastern bus corridor.

I note that the Member for Oodgeroo represented the electorate of Cleveland in the previous LNP Government. I also note that while the previous government was in office, it did not invest in crucial congestion-busting projects like the Eastern Transitway. Instead it cut \$600 million from transport infrastructure in Queensland and cut \$110 million from the Eastern Busway.

In contrast to the previous government, the Palaszczuk Government is investing in the delivery of the Eastern Transitway. This cost-effective solution will improve priority for public transport along Old Cleveland Road, from Coorparoo to Carindale, and aims to extend the benefits of the operating sections of the Eastern Busway.

The Palaszczuk Government is also actively engaging with the Australian Government to seek its commitment to supporting delivery of transport needs across the region.

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, \$3.65 billion is committed across TMR's Metropolitan District, which is estimated to support an average of 3100 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 Palaszczuk 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.