

## Question on Notice

No. 414

Asked on 20 April 2021

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

### QUESTION:

With reference to frequent road closures caused by minimal flooding at Gairloch Washaway on the Bruce Highway—

Will the Minister redirect the \$48m in planning for the Ingham bypass to urgently upgrade the washaway in order to improve traffic flow through this vital road artery?

### ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Hinchinbrook for the question.

A 2011 planning study undertaken by the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) confirmed that investing in upgrading the Gairloch Floodway alone would not resolve flooding issues across the full 13-kilometre section of the highway between the southern outskirts of Ingham and the Cardwell range. The planning study identified the need for a more comprehensive solution to address flooding on this section of the Bruce Highway, which was to relocate the Bruce Highway out of the Lower Herbert River floodplain.

Later this year, the Queensland Government will begin planning and consultation on possible upgrades for the Bruce Highway between Ingham and Cardwell. The Bruce Highway–Ingham to Cardwell Range Deviation (Plan and Preserve Corridor) project is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland governments to the value of \$48 million.

This upcoming planning project will update the findings from the 2011 planning study, undertake further technical investigations to inform detailed planning and potentially acquire the identified corridor.

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, \$1.43 billion is committed across TMR's Northern District, which is estimated to support an average of 1270 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, including the commencement of the \$230 million Townsville Ring Road (Stage 5), the \$107.65 million Townsville Northern Access Intersection Upgrade and the \$25 million Bruce Highway, Ingham – Halifax – Bemerside Road and Cardwell Range widen pavement and improve safety.

The Bruce Highway Action Plan outlines the Palaszczuk Government's commitment towards flood resilience and other upgrades on this critical link, including floodproofing the Bruce—building a minimum one-in-one-hundred-year flood immunity standard for the entire Bruce Highway.