

**Question on Notice**

**No. 512**

**Asked on 11 May 2021**

**MS F SIMPSON ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—**

**QUESTION:**

With reference to the Mooloolah River Interchange (MRI), which is critical enabling infrastructure for the Sunshine Coast transport network for all vehicles, including public transport—

Will the Minister (a) confirm if the department has considered the cost-savings of constructing the Caloundra and Maroochydore Corridor Options Study (CAMCOS) heavy rail bridge over the Mooloolah River at the same time as the MRI road bridge, and (b) if so, what is the department's advice about what the savings are for the CAMCOS rail bridge, and (c) advise if these savings have been factored into any cost-benefit analysis of the Beerwah-to-Maroochydore CAMCOS rail line?

**ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for Maroochydore for the question.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is planning a multi-modal transport network for the Sunshine Coast. Public transport projects, such as Caboolture to Maroochydore Corridor Study (CAMCOS), have been considered as part of the Mooloolah River Interchange (MRI) project.

As the CAMCOS project has yet to enter into a full detailed design phase, TMR has advised that an investment in the construction of a heavy rail bridge at this location would not currently be considered economical. Value-for-money design and construction solutions will be further assessed over time, as per the Queensland Government's Project Assessment Framework process. Delivery of new infrastructure—including the MRI and a possible rail line on the CAMCOS route—will be delivered based on current and future needs, such as traffic volumes and population growth. Meanwhile a record road and transport infrastructure investment on the Sunshine Coast will continue under the Palaszczuk Government.

It is relevant to contrast this investment approach with that of the previous LNP Government, which cut \$1.6 billion from roads and transport funding, making the state-wide allocation of funding for competing priorities, like upgrading the MRI, more challenging. It also relevant to note that a business case for the MRI upgrade was not progressed under the previous LNP Government.