

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 652**

**Asked on 25 May 2021**

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

### **QUESTION:**

With reference to congestion experienced daily by commuters at the intersection of Woolcock street with Shaw Road and North Shore Boulevard and the results of a recent survey conducted by the RACQ which named it in the top 30 worst areas for congestion in Queensland—

Will the Minister direct his department to accelerate planning for this area in order to relieve congestion on this busy Townsville road?

### **ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for Hinchinbrook for the question.

I refer the Member to my response to a question without notice on 21 August 2019, asking whether I would commit to planning for the Woolcock Street intersections with North Shore Boulevard and Shaw Road.

At that time, I advised I was happy for the Department of Transport and Main Roads' (TMR) staff to meet on-site with the Member to discuss the intersection. At this meeting, the Member was advised of the situation, including the need to review an infrastructure agreement with an adjacent developer.

The agreement was made when this section of Woolcock Street and Shaw Road were part of the Bruce Highway. The Bruce Highway function has since transferred to the Townsville Ring Road following the completion of the \$200 million Townsville Ring Road Section 4 project completed in early 2017—this project has helped to reduce congestion on these local roads.

I can advise the recently released *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2021–22 to 2024–25* includes \$1.16 million in funding for the North Townsville Road, Northshore Boulevard to Ingham Road, safety and capacity planning. TMR is aware of the issues raised about the intersection by 16 respondents in the 2021 RACQ Congestion Survey. These issues are being considered in the planning. The planning will take into account how best to address congestion within a constrained area, given the proximity of the river, the two Bohle River bridges, two at-grade rail crossings, as well as existing and proposed development.