

Question on Notice

No. 951

Asked on 1 September 2021

MRS D FRECKLINGTON ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

With reference to \$12.387m in funding for the GS Bond Bridge on the Chinchilla-Wondai Road and the removal of this funding from the Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program—

Will the Minister provide clarification about (a) what constraints were identified in the surrounding road environment which have prevented TMR from finding a suitable alignment for the new structure, (b) what are the other 'higher priority' projects in the Southern Qld Region which have progressed because GS Bond Bridge has been removed from QTRIP and (c) when will this project be reconsidered, given the Nanango Electorate has the second highest number of road fatalities in Queensland between January and June 2021?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Nanango for the question.

The *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2021–22 to 2024–25* (QTRIP) is the sixth record transport and roads infrastructure program, outlining \$27.5 billion in investment over the next four years and estimated to support an average of 24,000 direct jobs over the life of the program. Of this, \$2.441 billion is committed across the Department of Transport and Main Roads' (TMR) Southern Queensland Region, which is estimated to support an average of 2515 direct jobs over the life of the program.

The Palaszczuk Labor Government is investing 50 per cent more on road and transport infrastructure than what was allocated by the LNP in its last year in office. There is also more for roads maintenance in this budget, with more than \$1.1 billion allocated each year.

Over the next four years, \$17.5 billion of the \$27.5 billion QTRIP will be invested in regional Queensland, supporting 15,870 jobs. This includes almost \$1.5 billion for the Wide Bay Burnett region.

The GS Bond Bridge replacement project (the project) is funded through the State Road Network Upgrades investment program with an approved budget of \$13,050,000. The funding remains allocated to the project. As part of its due diligence, TMR has been investigating engineering options to replace the bridge on a new alignment. These investigations have resulted in the need to consider alternative alignments due to identified complex construction constraints.

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 benefits, support more jobs and deliver ongoing benefits of vital infrastructure for years to come.

I have also asked that TMR contact the Member's office to arrange a briefing on this project.