

Question on Notice

No. 975

Asked on 1 September 2021

MR J MADDEN ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the 2020–21 State Budget provision for \$399,000 of a total spend of \$799,000 for planning for the proposed Warrego Highway and Haigslea - Amberley Road Interchange and the Department of Transport and Main Roads recently undertaking community consultation in relation to the proposed interchange—

Will the Minister advise of the outcome of the community consultation with regard to the proposed Warrego Highway Haigslea - Amberley Road Interchange and outline what is the next stage towards the construction of the interchange?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Ipswich West for the question.

In early 2020, a planning study was completed by the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) that investigated options to address the safety issues at the Haigslea–Amberley Road intersection with the Warrego Highway. This initial planning identified that the safety issues could not be addressed sufficiently by minor upgrades.

TMR is currently undertaking the next stage of planning, which is a preliminary evaluation, that broadens the scope of the study in order to identify options that will adequately address these issues. This is expected to be complete by early 2022.

As part of this planning phase, TMR undertook community consultation earlier this year. That consultation closed in June 2021, and approximately 300 responses were received via the project website, community information sessions, email submissions and phone calls.

TMR is currently finalising the consultation summary report which will be used to inform the preliminary evaluation. TMR anticipates that consultation outcomes, together with the project's next steps, will be distributed back to the community early next year.

The Palaszczuk Government has committed \$799,000 to deliver the preliminary evaluation that will identify preferred options. This project has been included in the *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2021–22 to 2024–25*.

Pending the outcomes of the preliminary evaluation and funding priorities, the next stage would be a business case that would identify a preferred option. It is likely that funding for further planning on this project will be nominated under the Warrego Highway Future Priorities Investment Road and Rail Project. This is funded 80 per cent from the Australian Government and 20 per cent from the Queensland Government.