

Question on Notice

No. 225

Asked on 17 March 2022

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise what investigation the Minister's department is undertaking to ascertain if M1 upgrade works in Palm Beach affected local flood levels during the recent extreme weather event/SEQ floods (Feb–Mar 2022)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Burleigh for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government acknowledges that there was an unprecedented volume of rainfall across a vast area of South East Queensland in February and March 2022, the highest rainfall over a three and seven-day period in Brisbane since records began in 1840. The damage caused by this event needs to be assessed in the safest possible manner.

I can advise that the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is working closely with its design consultants, including hydraulic specialists, to understand the recent extreme weather event and its impacts with Tallebudgera and Currumbin creeks.

I can also advise that in undertaking the design for the Pacific Motorway (M1) Varsity Lakes to Tugun upgrade, its designers were required to consider several scenarios, including flood events and future sea level rise associated with climate change. TMR consulted extensively with local and state government authorities regarding the hydraulic impacts of the upgrade. These hydraulic impacts were assessed and approved within the limits of a no worsening impact.

Furthermore, TMR is undertaking compliance audits to ensure that construction contractors are meeting the obligations of the relevant permits, standards and specifications issued in relation to the construction of the motorway upgrade.