

Question on Notice

No. 339

Asked on 31 March 2022

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide an overview of the 'Intelligent Transport System Pilot Program, piloting future technologies' project (QTRIP Investment ID 1485694)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Chatsworth for the question.

Connected vehicles are those that use cooperative intelligent transport systems technology to allow vehicles to talk to other vehicles, infrastructure and other types of road users to produce safety warnings to assist drivers. The driver is always in control of the vehicle. The Intelligent Transport System Pilot program funded the Cooperative and Automated Vehicle Initiative's (CAVI) delivery of the Ipswich Connected Vehicle Pilot (ICVP), the Cooperative and Highly Automated Driving pilot and the Vulnerable Road User project.

Funding for the CAVI program is provided for through the Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program (QTRIP). The total funding commitment from the Department of Transport and Main Roads of \$35 million and the Motor Accident Insurance Commission of \$13 million is across eight years of QTRIP (2016–17 through to 2023–24). This is a strategic investment in the future of our road transport.

Connected vehicle and infrastructure technologies which improve safety, mobility and emissions are being rolled out around the world by automotive companies in a coordinated manner with governments. The Australian New Car Assessment Program has foreshadowed these technologies for inclusion in its star rating assessment from 2025 onwards.

The ICVP has laid many of the foundations needed to support automotive companies to include these technologies in new cars for the Australian market. International efforts by industry do not translate locally without investment by government in critical enabling digital and physical roadside infrastructure to ensure interoperability. Without government investment, Queensland—and Australia more broadly—risk being left behind. International studies have shown that connected vehicle technology could deliver a 20 per cent reduction in road crashes, with 90 per cent of the deployment cost borne by industry.

Aligned with European standards, Australia's largest Cooperative Intelligent Transport Systems (C-ITS) pilot, the ICVP ran for 12 months in Ipswich, concluding in September 2021. ICVP had members of the public participate directly by having their own vehicles retrofitted with connected vehicle technology. Independent evaluation of the safety benefits of C-ITS has been undertaken by the Queensland University of Technology (QUT). QUT has evaluated the benefits of the driver alerts generated in the ICVP including red-lights, presence of pedestrians at traffic lights, roadworks, hazards and back-of-queues on motorways and other safety applications. QUT looked at the participants' speed data and analysed it with and without warnings, indicating a projected 13–21 per cent reduction in crashes. Participants also rated the usefulness of the warnings an average of eight out of ten. In preparation for commercially available vehicles, the core technology elements of the ICVP are now being deployed along 1500 kilometres of the Bruce Highway, under funding arrangements with the Federal Government.

The ICVP was delivered in partnership with iMOVE Australia; the Centre for Accident Research and Road Safety – Queensland; Telstra; the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications; Lexus Australia; and Ipswich City Council.