

Question on Notice

No. 388

Asked on 10 May 2022

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

QUESTION:

With reference to media reports on 20 April 2022 that 2 northbound lanes of the Pacific Motorway were closed during that morning's peak hour due to emergency roadworks—

Will the Minister advise (a) the location and detailed description of the issue requiring emergency roadworks, (b) if the works related to a culvert or other structure, the date of any inspections in the previous 2 years and whether a structure management plan was in place and (c) the maximum extent of delays during the incident (in delay time and queuing length) and the total duration of traffic impacts?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Theodore for the question.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads advises two lanes of the Pacific Motorway northbound were closed from late on 19 April 2022 until the early morning of 21 April 2022. A preliminary investigation at the Mains Road overpass in Nathan/Mount Gravatt during the night shift on 19 April 2022 raised concerns about structural stability due to an embankment failure.

While the road surface was in good condition, the fill under the road had eroded and was not immediately visible. The erosion is most likely a result of the wet weather in late-February 2022. The cavity in the embankment was around 2.8 metres deep and about 13 metres wide. This resulted in the two left lanes being closed temporarily while engineers undertook detailed investigation and remedial works.

TMR advises this structure does not have a structural management plan, however four inspections were carried out under the Pacific Motorway northbound lanes over the past two years. The dates of the inspections were:

- 14 December 2021: level 1 routine bridge inspection
- 11 April 2022: level 2 bridge condition rating inspection (incomplete due to time limitations)
- 19 April 2022: opportunistic and due diligence inspection
- 5 May 2022: level 2 bridge condition rating inspection (after the remedial works and a completion of 11 April 2022 inspection).

On 20 April 2022, morning peak traffic conditions resulted in northbound delays, increasing travel times, from 6.15 am to a maximum queuing impact of just over five kilometres. Delays were experienced for approximately eight kilometres between 7.45 am and 8.15 am. Queueing and delays decreased after the morning peak traffic, resulting in minor delays past the worksite between 9.30 am and 3.00 pm.

Queueing past the worksite increased during the afternoon peak to a maximum queue length of three kilometres between 5.00 pm to 5.45 pm. Queueing and delays decreased and cleared by 6.55 pm, with no further queueing observed. Repair and remediation works were carried out during the night of 20 April 2022. All lanes were opened to traffic at 5.00 am on 21 April 2022.