

Question on Notice

No. 600

Asked on 21 June 2022

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the recent announcement about the reduced scope for the Cairns Ring Road project—

Will the Minister advise the estimated cost to complete the entire project from the Cairns CBD to Smithfield (the original project scope)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Coomera for the question.

The upgrades to the Captain Cook Highway (referred to locally and in the media as Cairns Ring Road (Cairns central business district (CBD) to Smithfield)) project's scope has not altered.

Master planning is progressing for both the Captain Cook Highway between Cairns CBD and Smithfield, and a priority (Stage 1) project for the initial \$359 million funding, which was originally determined by the previous Morrison Government with no consultation with the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) along the section of the Captain Cook Highway—locally known as Sheridan Street—between the intersections of Florence Street and Aeroglen Drive in Cairns CBD.

Delivery of the upgrade for the entire 15-kilometre corridor between Cairns CBD and Smithfield outlined in the master plan will be identified, prioritised and developed as part of the master planning phase. Like the staged approach to upgrade the Bruce Highway on Cairns Southern Access Corridor, full implementation of the delivery of the Captain Cook Highway, Cairns CBD to Smithfield upgrade is proposed to occur as demand grows.

The Palaszczuk Government is delivering its seventh record transport and roads infrastructure program in a row, as detailed in the *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2022–23 to 2025–26*, which outlines \$29.7 billion in investment over the next four years and is estimated to support an average of 25,200 direct jobs over the life of the program. Of this, \$3.157 billion is committed across TMR's North Queensland Region, estimated to support an average of 2910 direct jobs over the life of the program.