

Question on Notice

No. 617

Asked on 21 June 2022

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the government's commitment to upgrade the Mooloolah River Interchange (MRI), and the more than 45,000 motorists who use the two-lane section of the Sunshine Motorway between Kawana Way and the MRI each day—

Will the Minister advise when the government intends to address the longstanding congestion bottleneck by duplicating the existing two-lane section from Kawana Way to the MRI?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Buderim for the question.

Duplication of the two-lane section of the Sunshine Motorway, between Kawana Way and the Mooloolah River Interchange (MRI), will be delivered in future stages of the Sunshine Motorway MRI project. The duplication will boost capacity of this section, helping to address current peak-hour congestion and significantly improve travel times.

The MRI project will deliver a safe, efficient and effective transport network to meet the current and future needs of the Sunshine Coast. Design work is progressing and is expected to be completed in 2023.

The \$320 million first stage of the MRI project is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland governments and will be constructed first. Stage 1 will deliver:

- a new road overpass to provide a more direct and efficient connection from Nicklin Way to Brisbane Road at Mooloolaba
- a new local road connection between Karawatha Drive at Mountain Creek and Brisbane Road at Mooloolaba.

The new local connections constructed during Stage 1 will significantly improve safety by separating local traffic from high-speed motorway traffic and reducing traffic weaving, which is a well-known issue at the interchange. Importantly, these works need to be delivered first to enable construction of the project's future stages. The new connections will move local traffic away from the area and minimise impacts and inconvenience to road users and the broader network during future stages.

The Queensland 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, \$3.079 billion is committed across the Department of Transport and Main Roads' North Coast Region, estimated to support an average of 2700 direct jobs over the life of the program.