

Question on Notice

No. 694

Asked on 23 June 2022

MR D PURDIE ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)

QUESTION:

With reference to no additional funding being allocated in the 2022-23 State Budget for urgent safety upgrades on the Sunshine Motorway—

Will the Minister advise what immediate action the government is taking to address congestion on the Sunshine Motorway, to improve safety for motorists?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Ninderry for the question.

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.

This year's Budget is delivering an infrastructure boom for roads and transport on the Sunshine Coast, supporting \$3 billion worth of road and transport infrastructure projects across the Sunshine Coast and surrounding areas alone over the next four years and 2700 direct jobs over the life of the program.

The Palaszczuk Government is building better infrastructure, supporting good jobs and getting people home safer and sooner to spend more time enjoying Queensland's great lifestyle. When driving from Brisbane to the Sunshine Coast, it is hard to miss all of the roadworks currently underway. Right now, work is progressing on the \$662 million upgrade between Caboolture and Beerburum where the Palaszczuk Government is six-laning the highway and building ten bigger, better bridges.

The interchange at Deception Bay Road is getting a \$163 million revamp to ease congestion and cater for the unprecedented growth in Queensland, thanks to our strong health response. Likewise, both the Mons and Maroochydore Road interchanges are currently in construction. Just recently, the relocated Exit 200 opened to traffic, which was a major milestone for the \$301 million upgrade, and we will see another milestone when traffic drives over a new, four-lane bridge over the highway for the very first time.

The Palaszczuk Government is delivering a number of Sunshine Motorway projects currently underway to tackle congestion, meet future population growth in the region and improve efficiency, capacity and safety on the Sunshine Motorway and connecting road networks.

The Australian and Palaszczuk governments have jointly funded the \$320 million to the first stage of the Sunshine Motorway, Mooloolah River Interchange upgrade (MRI) project on a 50:50 federal:state basis. The entire upgrade will deliver a safe, efficient and effective transport network to meet the current and future needs of the Sunshine Coast region. The upgrade will improve north–south connectivity between key residential, employment, health and education facilities to support population, economic and tourism growth. Design work for the MRI project is progressing and is expected to be completed in 2023. Timing for Stage 1 construction will be determined as part of detailed design for the project.

The Palaszczuk Government has also allocated \$1.75 million to undertake planning for the future duplication of a key link on the Sunshine Motorway. This includes planning to duplicate the motorway from Pacific Paradise to Coolum, an approximate 10-kilometre section of the motorway north of Pacific Paradise, between David Low Way to north of Yandina–Coolum Road interchange. Planning also includes provisions for active transport, and improvements to the Yandina–Coolum Road roundabout and the School Road intersection.