

Question on Notice

No. 748

Asked on 16 August 2022

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise when the full design of stage 1 of the Coomera Connector will be released?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Coomera for the question.

We need a Second M1.

That is why the Palaszczuk Government secured and gazetted the full corridor in 2016, 2017 and 2019 after inheriting no corridor when elected.

That is why the Palaszczuk Government then funded it and locked in \$2.16 billion in joint-funding to build Stage 1 of the Coomera Connector – the single largest road project in Queensland. Our plan will take 60,000 cars a day off the M1 and provide for additional capacity for a growing northern Gold Coast region.

The Queensland and Australian governments have committed a total of \$2.16 billion (\$1.08 billion each on a 50:50 federal:state basis) to the Coomera Connector (Stage 1) project, which is estimated to support an average of 1000 direct jobs over the life of the project. The 16-kilometre Stage 1 project, between Coomera and Nerang, will be delivered as three separate packages.

I can advise that the concept designs are already available on the Coomera Connector Stage 1 project website online at www.tmr.qld.gov.au/CoomeraConnector, including an animated drive-through, artist impressions and a 360-degree panoramic interactive map which I am sure the Member will find informative. As the Stage 1 North package (Shipper Drive, Coomera to Helensvale Road, Helensvale) moves into construction, final detailed plans will be available to the public in the coming months.

I can also advise that Stage 1 Central: Helensvale Road, Helensvale to Smith Street Motorway, Molendinar and Stage 1 South: Smith Street Motorway, Molendinar to Nerang-Broadbeach Road, Nerang, detailed plans will be available to the public in 2023.

The Palaszczuk Government has also recently secured two conservation areas, Greenridge and Tabooba as part of the Coomera Connector environmental offset strategy. This now means more than 1000 hectares of potential habitat is now available. This is a significant step towards a sustainable future for koalas under threat from disease and rapid urban expansion.

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, \$5.194 billion is committed across TMR's South Coast Region, estimated to support an average of 4300 direct jobs over the life of the program.