

## Question on Notice

No. 1015

Asked on 12 September 2023

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

### QUESTION:

With reference to upgrades to the Bruce Highway between Townsville and Ingham (Investment IDs 931523 and 865016)—

Will the Minister advise why the cost of these projects has increased from \$10.678m to \$16.475m?

### ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Coomera for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government is delivering its eighth record transport and roads infrastructure program in a row, as detailed in the *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program (QTRIP) 2023–24 to 2026–27*, which outlines \$32.1 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, \$994 million is committed across the Department of Transport and Main Roads' (TMR) Northern District, estimated to support an average of 860 direct jobs over the life of the program.

The \$16.475 million cost refers to two projects delivered by TMR in the Northern District, which were included in *QTRIP 2022–23 to 2025–26*.

The \$8.765 million Bruce Highway (Townsville – Ingham), Leichhardt Creek to Lilypond Creek, overtaking lane project (Investment ID 865016), and the \$7.71 million Bruce Highway (Townsville – Ingham), Leichhardt Creek to Abergowrie Road, pavement widening project (Investment ID 931523) were fully funded by the Australian Government. These projects commenced in March 2022 and were completed in April 2023, ahead of the scheduled completion date of June 2023.

Regarding the Bruce Highway (Townsville – Ingham), Leichhardt Creek to Abergowrie road, widen pavement and improve safety project, I can confirm the original budget allocation was \$3.913 million. An additional \$2.797 million was allocated to this project in mid-2020, following the Black Spots, Rest Areas and Safety Upgrades Review. This funding was allocated for initial project works including site investigations, surveying, culvert inspections and pavement testing, which had not been included in the original project budget. A further \$1 million was approved for the project in early-2022 due to cost increases associated with COVID-19 impacts, rises in materials and construction costs, and additional project scope. These additional costs increased the total project budget to \$7.71 million.

Regarding the Bruce Highway (Townsville – Ingham), Leichhardt Creek to Lilypond Creek, construct overtaking lanes project, I can confirm the original project budget was \$6.765 million. I am advised an additional \$2 million in funding was allocated to this project in early-2022 due to cost increases associated with COVID-19 impacts, rises in materials and construction costs, and additional project scope. This increased the total project budget to \$8.765 million.