

Question on Notice

No. 1126

Asked on 14 September 2023

MR S O'CONNOR ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS AND MINISTER FOR DIGITAL SERVICES (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

With reference to Coomera Connector Stage 1 Central Construction Package and impacts on residents in The Surrounds portion of Helensvale, Arundel Springs and broader Arundel and Parkwood areas—

Will the Minister detail (a) the schedule of construction works (b) provisions to ensure The Surrounds residents have continuous local access during construction and where that access will be, (c) when the replication of Buckler Drive will be completed, (d) provisions for residents in The Surrounds to access the Helensvale light and heavy rail stations and the Westfield Helensvale shopping centre, (e) impacts on the bridge linking The Surrounds to Millaroo Drive and (f) any other relevant information regarding the construction phase of the new road for residents in these areas?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Bonney 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 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, \$5.504 billion is committed across the Department of Transport and Main Roads' (TMR) South Coast Region, estimated to support an average of 4130 direct jobs over the life of the program.

The Coomera Connector is a game changer for South East Queensland and will be the single largest road project in our State's history. Transforming the way we move in and around the Gold Coast, and neighbouring Logan, the Coomera Connector will provide capacity to support our growing communities.

- a) Site investigations are currently underway to inform the design of the Stage 1 Central package of the Coomera Connector, which extends from south of Helensvale Road to the Smith Street Motorway. I am advised that in the coming months, once the design is suitably progressed, TMR will be in a position to provide nearby residents with further detail.
- b) With regard to provisions to ensure residents of 'The Surrounds' have continuous local access during construction works, access for residents will always be maintained. However, some points of access may temporarily change during construction works, or permanently change based on detailed designs for the Central package.
- c) Design work is currently underway in relation to Buckler Drive and will be communicated to nearby residents once the design is suitably progressed.
- d) Access to the Helensvale light and heavy rail stations and the Westfield shopping centre is still in design phase and will be communicated to nearby residents once the design is suitably progressed.

- e) The Sage Street bridge connecting to Millaroo Drive remains part of the permanent design and may be a key connection for residents of 'The Surrounds' during construction activities. It is noted the Sage Street bridge will need to be lengthened to span across the Coomera Connector, requiring its closure for a period of time. However, as the design and construction program have not yet been finalised, impacts to the Sage Street bridge cannot be confirmed at this stage.
- f) TMR will be in a position to advise nearby residents with further detail once the design is suitably progressed. I am advised this will be in the coming months.