

Question on Notice

No. 1499

Asked on 16 November 2023

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise what compensation will be provided to businesses in Bli Bli who have been significantly impacted, both financially and physically by the eight week closure of the west-bound lane of the Bli Bli bridge for repair works?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Ninderry for the question.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is responsible for maintaining Bli Bli bridge on David Low Way to a serviceable condition for all road users. As the repair works to Bli Bli bridge were deemed a safety priority, they were planned to be completed prior to the end of 2023 and the wet season. To facilitate the work, TMR's contractor had to modify traffic arrangements and access to the bridge for the safety of road users and work crews.

The bridge repair works commenced on 9 October 2023 and were scheduled to take approximately eight weeks to complete. I am pleased to advise the works were completed ahead of schedule with crews demobilised by 30 November 2023. From this date, the bridge was fully opened to traffic in both directions, and the traffic arrangements which were in place prior to the works were reinstated. The project team has provided this information to local businesses and other key stakeholders.

I understand the works have been challenging for the Bli Bli community, in particular the businesses in the adjacent commercial complexes. The project team ensured access to all businesses in the vicinity of the works was maintained, without compromising the safety of road users and work crews.

I am advised since works commenced on 9 October 2023, TMR received three requests for information about the compensation process, one request for compensation, and one request to meet with a tenant regarding a rental reduction. Each claim for compensation will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and on their own merits.