

Question on Notice

No. 1560

Asked on 29 November 2023

MS F SIMPSON ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND MINISTER FOR RACING (HON G GRACE)

QUESTION:

With reference to the dangerous conflict points outside of Maroochydore High for students, parents and teachers at the start and finish of school and the school's proposed solution requiring major work outside and within the school boundary—

Will the Minister provide an update on the planning stages and confirm funding for a solution that provides safety for students and removes an unacceptable risk for teachers supervising student and traffic movements outside the front gate?

ANSWER: [MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR YOUTH JUSTICE (HON D FARMER)]:

I thank the Member for the question.

On 18 December 2023, I was appointed as Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice and as such, I am now the responsible Minister to answer this Question.

The safety and wellbeing of students and staff in Queensland schools are of the highest priority for the Queensland Government.

School road safety is a matter that requires whole-of-community awareness and commitment. Improving the safety of school travel for all children relies on the involvement and engagement of schools, local government and state authorities, such as the Department of Education (DoE), the Queensland Police Service, the Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR), Translink and/or bus operators as required.

Maroochydore State High School has committed to exploring options to improve traffic safety around the school, and DoE will support the school to establish a Safe School Travel Committee, if they wish to do so.

DoE has worked with the Principal of Maroochydore State High School and DTMR to develop concept plans to deliver improvements to traffic flow at the front entrance of the school. The plans include upgrading the entry and exit to the school car park, enhancing the bus set down area, and increasing parking spaces for parents, caregivers and staff.

The finalised concept plan was included to support an application for funding under DTMR's School Transport Infrastructure Program (STIP). This program supports construction of new or improved transport-related infrastructure at schools and/or on the surrounding road network to:

- improve the safety and operation of transport at schools; and
- provide long-term road safety improvements for all road users travelling to and from a school and/or travelling near a school in Queensland.

Applications for the most recent round of STIP closed in late October 2023. DTMR will notify applicants of the outcome, on completion of the prioritisation process.

Further information on the STIP and its guidelines are available on DTMR's website at www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Safety/Road-safety/Targeted-Road-Safety-Program/School-Transport-Infrastructure-Program.

When considering new infrastructure projects for school facilities, including improvements to school car parking facilities, DoE works closely with principals to develop a list of priorities through a School Strategic Infrastructure Plan (SSIP). The SSIP is DoE's primary method for identifying and prioritising needs for each Queensland state school.

Maroochydore State High School lists improvements to the existing bus zone, school car park, and flow of traffic safely through school, as priority two of eight on its current SSIP.

DoE's Infrastructure Advisor will continue to support Maroochydore State High School with its safe school travel needs, and explore appropriate funding opportunities for any potential future projects.