

Question on Notice

No. 1583

Asked on 29 November 2023

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Flinders Highway between Mount Isa and Townsville—

Will the Minister advise (a) the full and itemised expenditure on works completed along this stretch of road between 2013 and 2023 by both the Queensland and Commonwealth Governments and (b) the full and itemised future budget for works on this stretch of road by both the Queensland and Commonwealth Governments?

ANSWER: [MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS AND MINISTER FOR DIGITAL SERVICES (HON B MELLISH)]

I thank the Member for Traeger for the question.

On 18 December 2023, I was appointed as Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services and, as such, I am now the responsible Minister to answer this Question.

- (a) The Queensland Government recognises the importance of road infrastructure—especially in North West Queensland—and identifies the Flinders and Barkly highways as integral road supply chains that connect our east coast to the Northern Territory border, supporting the livestock, mining, agricultural, tourism and freight industries.

Historic expenditure is advised for financial year periods, as it is based on audited financial statements. During the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2023 (financial years 2013–14 to 2022–23), the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) delivered approximately \$389 million of transport and roads infrastructure investment on the Flinders Highway (which extends between Townsville and Cloncurry) and the section of the Barkly Highway between Cloncurry and Mount Isa. Expenditure is itemised by the following sections:

- Flinders Highway (Townsville – Charters Towers) – \$103 million
- Flinders Highway (Charters Towers – Hughenden) – \$64 million
- Flinders Highway (Hughenden – Richmond) – \$59 million
- Flinders Highway (Richmond – Julia Creek) – \$49 million
- Flinders Highway (Julia Creek – Cloncurry) – \$52 million
- Flinders Highway (multiple sections) – \$35 million
- Barkly Highway (Cloncurry – Mount Isa) – \$27 million.

Key projects delivered over the past 10 years include:

- Barkly Highway (Cloncurry – Mount Isa), improve safety, completed in 2021
- Barkly Highway (Cloncurry – Mount Isa), intersection upgrades, Northern Australia Roads Program (NARP), completed in 2019
- Flinders Highway (Townsville – Charters Towers), Townsville to Mingela Range (Package 1 and 2), construct overtaking lanes project, completed 2023
- Flinders Highway (Townsville to Charters Towers), Mingela Road to Kookaburra Creek, Wide Centre Line Treatment, completed in 2022
- Flinders Highway (Townsville – Charters Towers) and Woodstock - Giru Road, upgrade intersection, completed in 2020
- Flinders Highway (Townsville – Charters Towers), Package 1, rehabilitate and strengthen pavement, part of the NARP, completed in 2019

- Flinders Highway (Hughenden – Richmond), upgrade culvert, part of the NARP, completed in 2017
- Flinders Highway (Charters Towers – Hughenden), various locations, upgrade culverts, part of the NARP, completed in 2018
- Flinders Highway (Charters Towers – Hughenden), Sections 3.81 – 80.50km (Jesmond Road – Alpha Creek), rehabilitate pavement, completed in 2014
- Flinders Highway (Richmond – Julia Creek), 71.70 – 86.14km, rehabilitate pavement, completed in 2014
- Flinders Highway (Hughenden – Richmond), 103.00 – 110.70km, rehabilitate pavement, completed in 2014.

This infrastructure investment may include contributions from the Australian Government, local governments, or other funding sources. Of the overall \$389 million of past investment, approximately \$283 million (73 per cent) relates to investment jointly funded with the Australian Government, generally on an 80:20 basis (with the Queensland Government contributing 20 per cent). However, projects under the Commonwealth–State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements are funded on a 75:25 basis (Queensland Government contributing 25 per cent).

(b) With regard to future projects, the *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program (QTRIP) 2023–24 to 2026–27* outlines the following investments:

- Flinders Highway (Julia Creek – Cloncurry), Canal Creek, replace bridge and approaches (Investment ID: 2340056). Total project budget is \$10 million, with the Australian Government contributing \$8 million and the Queensland Government contributing \$2 million.
- Flinders Highway (Hughenden – Richmond), various locations, improve pavement and culvert (Investment ID: 2341059). Total project budget is \$21.43 million, with the Australian Government contributing \$20.18 million and the Queensland Government contributing \$1.25 million.
- Flinders Highway (Richmond – Julia Creek, Alick Creek), upgrade floodway and install major culvert (Investment ID: 1459426). Total project budget is \$30 million, with the Australian Government contributing \$24 million and the Queensland Government contributing \$6 million.
- Flinders Highway (Richmond – Julia Creek), various locations, improve pavement and upgrade culvert (Investment ID: 2340086). Total project budget is \$22.5 million, with the Australian Government contributing \$18 million and the Queensland Government contributing \$4.5 million.
- Flinders Highway and Townsville Port Road, Booth Road to Port of Townsville, planning (Investment ID: 2290241). Total project budget is \$805,000, funded by the Queensland Government.

The Queensland Government is working closely with the Australian Government on the outcomes of the Independent Strategic Review for future projects.

The Queensland Government firmly maintains that its infrastructure priorities are critical to the future of Queensland – to its economic growth, to opportunities for Queenslanders, to build more resilient communities, and to create an even safer, more efficient, more connected network.

As Queensland continues to experience exponential growth today and in the future, investment in the right infrastructure is vital to ensure the resilience and prosperity of the State and to support productivity growth and standards of living.

The Queensland Government is delivering its eighth record transport and roads infrastructure program in a row, as detailed in the 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, \$1.415 billion of investment is programmed for TMR's North West and Northern Districts, estimated to support an average of 1280 direct jobs over the life of the program.