

Question on Notice

No. 1608

Asked on 30 November 2023

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise the date of the last inspection of the following roads that would meet AusRAP standards (a) Peak Downs Highway, (b) Saraji Road, (c) Kilcummin-Diamond Downs Road, (d) Bowen Developmental Road, (e) Suttor Developmental Road, (f) Golden Mile Road, (g) Dysart Middlemount Road, (h) Clermont Alpha Road and (i) May Downs Road?

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

I thank the Member for Burdekin 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.

The Australian Road Assessment Program (AusRAP) is managed by Austroads. Austroads is a not-for-profit, non-partisan association funded by the Australian and New Zealand government transport agencies. Austroads provides high-quality, practical and impartial advice, information, tools and services to help Australian and New Zealand transport agencies—at all levels of government—to deliver efficient, reliable and safe mobility to customers.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has previously engaged accredited suppliers to conduct inspections on state-controlled roads in accordance with this program.

AusRAP assessments were last conducted across the entire state-controlled road network in 2014, 2015 and 2016:

- (a) Peak Downs Highway – last assessed in 2015
- (b) Saraji Road (Peak Downs – Dysart Road) managed by Isaac Regional Council and not under the State's jurisdiction for assessment – last assessed in 2015
- (c) Kilcummin–Diamond Downs Road – last assessed in 2014
- (d) Bowen Developmental Road – last assessed in 2014–15
- (e) Suttor Developmental Road – last assessed in 2015
- (f) Golden Mile Road – managed by Isaac Regional Council and not under the State's jurisdiction for assessment
- (g) Dysart Middlemount Road – last assessed in 2015
- (h) Clermont Alpha Road – last assessed in 2014
- (i) May Downs Road – last assessed in 2014.

However, adverse results were found in 2019 where star rating results worsened, even though significant investment was made, and where analysis of crashes indicated an improvement in safety performance. The adverse results were traced back to the subjective nature of the manual assessment and coding process at the heart of the AusRAP star rating process.

While full network assessments have not been conducted since 2016, due to these concerns with the AusRAP tool, TMR is working with Austroads to improve the tool, include further functionality and improve the efficiency of the assessments.

There are plans to review progress and assess the state-controlled road network in 2025 or 2026.

It should be noted that AusRAP star ratings are one of a number of ways to evaluate the risks on a road network. TMR regularly uses other nationally and locally developed methodologies, such as the Australian National Risk Assessment Model, the Queensland Risk Assessment Model, High Risk Roads, Emerging Crash Locations, and Crash Site History reports to monitor the road safety risks on the state-controlled road network.

The Queensland 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, \$769 million is committed across TMR's Mackay/Whitsunday District, estimated to support an average of 700 direct jobs over the life of the program.