

Question on Notice

No. 419

Asked on 19 April 2023

MS S BOLTON ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

With work on the rail-line duplication to Beerwah proceeding—

Will the Minister advise on any progress made to date on the Pre-investment Planning Study for the line that will result in a comprehensive corridor strategy and investment program for rail between Brisbane and Gympie?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Noosa for the question.

The Queensland Government is committed to investing in the Sunshine Coast rail network. While there is no project specifically by the name referred in the question, there are a number of projects currently underway to improve rail services for passengers and freight across the region.

The Beerburrum to Nambour Rail Upgrade project (B2N) Stage 1 has been jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland governments. This \$550.8 million commitment will increase capacity, improve reliability and reduce travel times for passengers and freight in the growing Sunshine Coast region. Stage 1 will deliver a duplication of rail track between Beerburrum and Beerwah, as well as three new bridges, removal of level crossings, three park 'n' ride facility expansions and a new bus interchange on the eastern side of Landsborough station.

Beyond B2N Stage 1, the Australian and Queensland governments are funding planning to determine the future staged investment priorities for the region. The \$1.5 million (50:50) overarching Brisbane to Sunshine Coast Rail Corridor Strategy is establishing a 30-year view of priorities, considerate of the system-wide requirements along the North Coast Line between Brisbane and Gympie. This overarching strategy also considers the requirements of the Direct Sunshine Coast Rail line detailed business case which is planning a potential new 37 kilometre spur line between Beerwah and Maroochydore. In addition, a \$6.25 million (80:20) study will then look specifically at the requirement, timing, and options for a future B2N duplication, beyond B2N Stage 1.

Together, these studies will respond to the forecast population growth in the Brisbane, Moreton Bay, Sunshine Coast, Noosa and Gympie regions, as well as government priorities and objectives for the transport network, as outlined in Creating Better Connections and SEQ Rail Connect.

These planning projects are underway now, with outcomes anticipated to be considered by government in 2024.