

Question on Notice

No. 230

Asked on 7 March 2024

MR M BOOTHMAN ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS AND MINISTER FOR DIGITAL SERVICES (HON B MELLISH)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister inform residents what actions the department has taken to facilitate a wildlife crossing for fauna that reside in forested areas south of Helensvale Road near Helensvale State High School?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Theodore for the question.

To ensure the Coomera Connector is designed and delivered in an environmentally sensitive manner, extensive environmental investigations—including flora, fauna and aquatic surveys—have been completed along the Stage 1 corridor.

The information and data collected from these surveys has identified the measures required to meet legislative obligations and enhance environmental outcomes. This information is available in the Public Environment Report (PER) which has been assessed and approval granted by the Australian Government.

Specifically, chapter seven of the PER addresses avoidance, mitigation and management measures including wildlife movement solution priority areas. An existing Queensland Rail bridge that provides an east–west fauna crossing of the adjacent rail line within the forested area near to the Coomera Connector alignment will be extended as part of the Stage 1 Central design as detailed in the PER table 79. This will facilitate wildlife crossings under the rail and new motorway alignments.

All fauna crossings built to allow safer wildlife movements, as part of the Coomera Connector, will meet the Australian Government’s legislative requirements. Any additional fauna crossings across or in the vicinity of Helensvale Road, and outside of the Coomera Connector corridor, will be the responsibility of Gold Coast City Council, as Helensvale Road is under Council’s jurisdiction.

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, \$5.504 billion is committed across the Department of Transport and Main Roads’ South Coast Region, estimated to support an average of 4130 direct jobs over the life of the program.