

## Question on Notice

No. 265

Asked on 19 March 2024

**MR T WATTS** ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS AND MINISTER FOR DIGITAL SERVICES (HON B MELLISH)—

### QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide the full cost (reported as a breakdown of spend across different areas i.e. staffing, advertising, consultants, etc.) of the Toowoomba North/South Transport Corridor Project?

### ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Toowoomba North for the question.

The Miles 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, \$820 million is committed across the Department of Transport and Main Roads' (TMR) Darling Downs district, estimated to support an average of 830 direct jobs over the life of the program.

An important part of the Queensland Government's investment in transport is strategic planning to ensure communities of the future have access to essential infrastructure. The cost of the Toowoomba North South Transport Corridor planning project to end of January 2024 is \$2.73 million. This budget includes \$2.33 million in engineering costs and \$397,000 in community consultation and engagement costs.

The \$397,000 in community consultation and engagement costs included \$317,000 for staffing, \$44,000 for advertorials and postal survey, and \$36,000 for graphic design, digital and print advertising, project hotlines and project correspondence.

Of the \$2.33 million in engineering costs, this included \$1.25 million for consultancy and \$1.08 million was for departmental staffing to provide project management, technical services, project review and other administration costs.

TMR advises a proportion of the planning investment made to date can be repurposed to assist in planning a transport system for greater Toowoomba. The engineering has produced a wide range of technical outputs, and many of those outputs have been used on a wide range of projects in the area. Outputs included traffic modelling, hydraulic and hydrological modelling, environmental and cultural heritage assessments, survey, economic analysis and strategic cost estimates.