

Question on Notice

No. 296

Asked on 20 March 2024

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise of planned upgrades to the Peak Downs Highway?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Burdekin 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 (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, \$769 million is committed across the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) Mackay Whitsunday District, estimated to support an average of 700 direct jobs over the life of the program

During the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2023 (four financial years from 2019–20 to 2022–23), TMR delivered approximately \$208 million of the transport and roads infrastructure investment, specifically on the Peak Downs Highway. This included realignment of Eton Range, targeted road safety improvements, pavement strengthening and widening.

Further significant improvements are programmed for delivery in the current QTRIP. This includes key activities such as the construction of dual overtaking lanes between Millennium Coal Mine and Carbourough Coal Mine and funding to rehabilitate sections of the highway east of the Eton Range.

In addition, various planning projects are also underway for further improvements to the Peak Downs Highway, west of Nebo. This includes the construction of additional overtaking lanes, road safety upgrades, principal cycle network and upgrades to 30 Mile Creek and North Creek bridges. Business cases for these projects are being developed and further funding will be considered during future program reviews and against competing statewide priorities.

I can also advise that the Walkerston Bypass project is currently in construction and will provide a new, two-lane rural highway to connect the Peak Downs Highway west of Walkerston to the Mackay Ring Road south of Mackay. The route will become the designated heavy vehicle route and provide a more efficient link for the mining industry between Mackay and the Bowen Basin. This project is expected to be completed in 2024.