

Question on Notice

No. 82

Asked on 15 February 2024

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise the final cost of the fauna crossing in the Smiths Gap Cassowary Corridor?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Coomera 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, \$1.576 billion is committed across the Department of Transport and Main Roads' (TMR) Far North District, estimated to support an average of 1300 direct jobs over the life of the program.

TMR has completed a world first cassowary fauna crossing at Smiths Gap on the Bruce Highway, as part of the 'Bruce Highway (Ingham – Innisfail), Smiths Gap, construct overtaking lane and fauna overpass' project. This project was fully funded by the Australian Government.

In November 2023, the Australian Government approved an additional \$10 million to complete the project, which, like many other major construction projects, was affected by industry-wide challenges around cost escalations and access to resources. This additional funding brought the final cost of the Smiths Gap project to \$40.7 million.