

## Question on Notice

No. 972

Asked on 22 August 2024

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

### QUESTION:

With reference to the New England Highway (Yarraman - Toowoomba) and Borneo Barracks (Cabarlah) construct turning project, and acknowledging funding was originally committed by the Australian Government in 2019—

Will the Minister advise what specific actions were taken to advocate for the retention of the originally committed \$5m from the Australian Government and clarify how the State Government intends to meet these additional costs without the originally committed federal funding, especially considering the safety risks that have been highlighted for years?

### ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Toowoomba North for the question.

The Miles Government is delivering its ninth record transport and roads infrastructure program in a row, as detailed in the *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2024–25 to 2027–28*, which outlines \$37.4 billion in investment over the four financial years and is estimated to support an average of 28,000 direct jobs over the life of the program. Of this, \$930 million is committed across the Department of Transport and Main Roads' (TMR) Darling Downs District, investment which is estimated to support an average of 860 direct jobs over the life of the program.

As a result of the Australian Government's Independent Strategic Review of its Infrastructure Investment Program, the original \$5 million of funding committed by the Australian Government for the New England Highway and Borneo Barracks project was withdrawn. The location was subsequently nominated for funding under the Australian Government's Black Spot Program, however, the nomination was unsuccessful.

TMR has completed the detailed design work for the project and will continue to consider funding opportunities for this project against other competing statewide priorities.