

Question on Notice

No. 920

Asked on 26 August 2025

MR S KNUTH ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON B MICKELBERG)—

QUESTION:

With reference to consistent concerns raised regarding a 3-4km section of unsealed road between Almaden to Chillagoe being a safety hazard for school children travelling on bus route P1792—

Will the Minister commit to funding to seal this section of road?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

The Crisafulli Government acknowledges the importance of the Burke Developmental Road and the significant benefits that sealing the remaining 3.5-kilometre unsealed section between Almaden and Chillagoe would provide. This includes safety and reliability for all road users, particularly school children travelling on bus route P1792.

In recent years, progressive sealing of sections of the Burke Developmental Road between Almaden and Chillagoe has improved access and safety for the local community, industries and visitors. However, due to the challenging topography at this location and the potential requirement to realign the road, sealing the last unsealed section between Almaden and Chillagoe is expected to be relatively challenging compared to other sections.

The Crisafulli Government is committed to improving regional road infrastructure and is currently undertaking a planning project for the Burke Developmental Road between Dimbulah and Dunbar. This project will propose sealing of the unsealed section between Almaden and Chillagoe as a key priority. The planning project is expected to be completed in late 2026, with community consultation for this project concluding on 20 August 2025.

The planning process will also consider traffic movements at the intersection with Ootann Road, located within the unsealed section. Ootann Road—a local road within the Mareeba and Tablelands Shires—is one of 22 successful projects under the Country Roads Connect Program. This program is designed to improve connectivity across regional Queensland by upgrading unsealed roads, improving reliability and resilience for rural and remote communities.

The Crisafulli Government remains focused on delivering infrastructure improvements that support regional communities, and the outcomes of the ongoing planning project will guide future investment decisions for the Burke Developmental Road.