

Question on Notice

No. 154

Asked on 3 March 2026

MR R KATTER ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON B MICKELBERG)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline how many kilometres of state managed roads damaged by flooding since November 2024 have been rebuilt to a higher flood immunity standard (reported separately by region)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

A total of \$360 million is being invested in 10 priority projects across state-controlled roads damaged by significant flooding since November 2024, to build them with greater flood resilience.

It is important to note that the impact and benefit of betterment projects cannot be measured in kilometres upgraded, given many projects, such as bridges, are often the cut off point to much larger regional routes. Therefore, a betterment project opens access to tourists, freight operators, and regional communities alike, and often measure hundreds of kilometres. These direct works have ensured improved access and connectivity benefit of approximately 1655 kilometres of road network.

However, I can advise the Member that following the Western Queensland Surface Trough in 2025, the resilience of six state routes is being improved at:

- Eyre Developmental Road – Cuttaburra crossing upgrade
- Balonne Highway (St George – Cunnamulla) – Wallam Creek drainage upgrades
- Diamantina Developmental Road (Charleville – Quilpie) – upgrades to Warrego River and Ward River floodways, and Quilberry Creek drainage
- Quilpie – Thargomindah Road – South Comongin Crossing upgrade
- Hungerford Road – Paroo River crossing upgrade
- Bulloo Developmental Road (Cunnamulla – Thargomindah) – Paroo River Bridge.

Following the North and Far North Tropical Low in 2025, four priority projects will aim to increase the resilience of the Bruce Highway as a critical freight route and key inland routes critical for resupply and connectivity for rural and regional communities.

Improving resilience at flooding hotspots is an ongoing focus for the Queensland Government, with detailed design and works underway on a further 13 projects across North Queensland following Tropical Cyclone Jasper in 2023–24 and the Northern and Central Queensland monsoon and flooding events of 2022–23.

In 2025, works were completed on another 30 betterment projects—responding to the four significant Southern Queensland flooding events of 2021–22 and the Northern and Central Queensland monsoon and flooding events of 2022–23. These projects included:

- installing larger culverts to improve flood capacity and reduce closure times
- upgrading drainage to improve run-off and minimise scouring
- strengthening road surfaces to better withstand prolonged inundation
- sealing unsealed road sections to be more resilient to rain impacts
- installing concrete batter protection to reduce flood impacts on bridges and floodways
- stabilising slopes to prevent erosion and landslips.