

Question on Notice

No. 396

Asked on 22 April 2026

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

QUESTION:

With reference to high security pits and pit lids to be installed for lighting infrastructure on motorways, highways (including on and off ramps), dedicated bikeways and pathways, and Transport and Main Roads installations with a history of cable theft—

Will the Minister advise (a) which specific motorways and highways (including relevant on and off ramps) are identified as requiring high security pits and pit lids (b) which dedicated bikeways and pathways are identified as requiring high security pits and pit lids and (c) which Transport and Main Roads installations have been identified as having a history of cable theft and therefore require high security pits and pit lids?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

Specific details of the site locations where high security lighting infrastructure is used (or not used) may lead to further potential incidents of theft, and is therefore not able to be provided.

I can, however, share the below information for the Member's benefit.

All the major highways and motorways in South East Queensland have been affected by copper cable theft and are considered as high risk for continued theft. Many sites have experienced repeat occurrences, including sites initially rectified.

Theft and vandalism have a significant impact on road lighting. Data shows that since 2015, incidents of other theft—including copper theft—have increased by 54 per cent. To mitigate the risk of future theft and ensure value-for-money, the Crisafulli Government is developing prevention measures and strengthening legislation to address the ongoing theft of copper, left unchecked by the former Labor Government as I outlined in my response to Question on Notice 1459 of 2025.

Work is actively ongoing to restore the lighting at Exit 34 on the Pacific Motorway. As part of this effort, lighting on Brigade Drive was successfully restored on 13 April 2026.

Works are also in progress at Exit 24 which are scheduled for completion within the current quarter of 2026, while Exit 31, and exits between 19 and 28 are programmed for completion in the third quarter of 2026.

The Crisafulli Government is also addressing this problem through the introduction of legislation, which if passed, aims to disrupt the theft, sale and disposal of stolen metal as scrap metal.