

Question on Notice

No. 446

Asked on 5 April 2011

MR WELLINGTON asked the Minister for Main Roads, Fisheries and Marine Infrastructure (MR WALLACE) -

QUESTION:

With reference to the planning for the location of the intersection on the Cooroy to Curra section of the national highway, specifically located north of Cooroy near the Cudgerie community – when will the public be invited to comment on the proposed design and location of the intersection?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Nicklin for the question.

The upgrade to the Bruce Highway between Cooroy and Curra is one of Queensland's highest priority road infrastructure projects.

The upgrade has received \$813 million in funding under the Nation Building Program (2009 - 2014). This consists of a \$200 million contribution for further planning and land acquisition on Sections A (Cooroy southern interchange to Sankeys Road), C (Traveston Road to Keefton Road) and D (Keefton Road to Curra), along with \$488 million from the Australian Government and \$125 million from the Queensland Government, for construction of Section B (Sankeys Road to Traveston Road). Construction on Section B commenced in October 2009 and is on target for completion in 2012.

A July 2008 Strategic Planning Study outlined the new corridor for the Bruce Highway upgrade between Cooroy and Curra and within Section A, identified a need for an interchange north of Cooroy. It recommended the interchange be located at Cudgerie Drive to provide a convenient point of transfer for traffic from the local road network onto the new highway.

After concerns were raised by you, the community and the Cudgerie Action Group at a public meeting in Pomona in early 2009, the department made a commitment to review the findings of the Strategic Planning Study in relation to the location and configuration of the proposed interchange.

The department has since met with you and representatives from Cudgerie Action Group and Sunshine Coast Regional Council, on several occasions, to discuss the preferred interchange option.

Feedback from these meetings assisted the department in identifying an option that has the best balance of environmental, geological, social, financial and operational outcomes. The recommendation is currently going through the final approval process.

Once endorsed, the proposal for Section A will go on public display. As part of this display members of the public will be given the opportunity to comment and the department will give consideration to any new feedback received from the public that hasn't already been considered.

The department will keep you updated as soon as new information becomes available.