

Question on Notice

No. QON293

Asked on Wednesday 20 May 2009

MR DAVID GIBSON asked the Minister for Main Roads MR WALLACE -

QUESTION:

Will he provide accident data and death rates for the Cooroy to Curra section of the Bruce Highway for the last 20 years (section by section) and the deaths per million vehicle kilometres for each section?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Gympie for the question.

The Bligh government welcomes the recent \$488 million contribution from the federal government for Section B of the Cooroy to Curra stretch of the Bruce Highway.

Early works on this section between Sankeys Road and Traveston Road will commence in July ahead of the first construction contract to be awarded in September. Completion of the project is scheduled for early 2012.

The Rudd government had also previously committed \$200 million for planning and land acquisition for the entire Cooroy to Curra upgrade.

The Bruce Highway is part of the National Network and funding is a federal government responsibility. I will continue to press for additional funding to ensure that construction progresses on the remaining sections of this priority project.

It is interesting to note that the upgrade did not progress during 11 years of the Howard Government, including a significant period when the federal Member for Wide Bay, the Honourable Warren Truss, was the federal Minister for Transport.

The information the Member has requested is quite detailed.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads has accident data as far back as 1992 but the traffic data required to make the requested calculations only goes back to the year 2000. Therefore the data requested over the 20 year period is unavailable.

I have presented the summary information in the attached table. It shows, for each of the proposed four sections of the Cooroy to Curra project:

- Details of the number of crashes for each year between 2000 and 2008, categorised by crash severity type.
- Details of the number of casualties that resulted from each of these crashes.
- Details of the accident rates for each year for each section expressed as the number of fatalities per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled (VKT).

Section B is the area of greatest safety concern which is why we've made it a priority.

