

Question on Notice

No. 1089

Asked on 26 November 2020

MR J KELLY ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline any strategies, policies, initiatives or infrastructure planned to improve safety for cyclists in Greenslopes and Queensland?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Greenslopes for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government wants to see more people leave their cars at home and take up cycling as an active, safe and healthy form of transport. This is more important than ever, as the COVID-19 pandemic has affected how all of us live our lives, including a significant increase in the number of people walking and riding around their neighbourhoods, suburbs and cities for exercise, enjoyment and commuting. I am pleased to see so many more Queenslanders experiencing the health, emotional and environmental benefits that come with active transport.

In 2017, the Palaszczuk Government released a new 10-year *Queensland Cycling Strategy 2017–27* to guide our investment in this growing part of the transport system. In September 2020, this was backed up by releasing our second two-year Queensland Cycling Action Plan to keep us on track to achieving our vision of more cycling, more often. One of our most important actions is continuing to invest in high quality, off-road cycling facilities that enable people of all ages and abilities to safely ride a bike, physically separated from motor vehicle traffic.

For the residents of Greenslopes, the Veloway 1 cycleway offers a safe, direct link to Brisbane city, the Princess Alexandra Hospital and Griffith University. In June 2020, the Palaszczuk Government completed construction of the \$45 million Veloway 1 Stage E project, giving southside bike riders a mostly uninterrupted 17-kilometre journey from Eight Mile Plains, through Greenslopes, to the Brisbane Central Business District (CBD).

Since 2015, the Palaszczuk Government has delivered over \$220 million in bike riding infrastructure and programs across Queensland. Investment in Greenslopes and nearby suburbs includes projects such as the Hanlon Park Paths and Underpass Design, Kangaroo Point Bikeway design and construction, as well as construction of Stage D of the Veloway 1 from O’Keefe Street to Lewisham Street.

The recently released *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2020–21 to 2023–24* (QTRIP) represents a record investment in road and transport infrastructure for the fifth year in a row, with \$26.9 billion committed over the next four years, supporting an average of approximately 23,600 direct jobs over the life of the program. This record investment includes more than \$240 million for bike riding infrastructure, planning and programs, and walking initiatives, to encourage more people to ride bikes and walk more often.

This investment prioritises infrastructure that physically separates bike riders from motor vehicles and some key projects included in QTRIP are:

- Veloway 1, O’Keefe Street Bridge construction, total Queensland Government investment of \$14.5 million
- Veloway 1, Birdwood Road cycle bridge, design, total Queensland Government investment of \$1.6 million

- Riverwalk (Kangaroo Point) Mowbray Park to Captain Burke Park, total Queensland Government investment of \$22.5 million
- South Brisbane bike network, total Queensland Government investment of \$10 million.

The Palaszczuk Government also recognises the increased risk facing vulnerable road users, including bicycle riders, and is working to educate all road users on their responsibilities.

Bicycle riders are legitimate road users and have the right to be treated with courtesy and care by other road users. This is a key area of focus in the Queensland Road Safety Strategy and current *Road Safety Action Plan 2020–21* (the Action Plan). Some initiatives from the Action Plan that have been implemented across Queensland include:

- continual rollout of changes to the timing of pedestrian crossing lights to protect pedestrians more as they cross the road
- investing in safe cycling, motorcycling and walking infrastructure. Through the Targeted Road Safety Program, the Queensland Government has focused on treating the highest risk locations, spending \$77.6 million since July 2017. This includes projects providing safety benefits for bicycle riders, pedestrians and motorcyclists. A further \$44.5 million has been programmed for work through 2020–21, which will provide further safety benefits for vulnerable road users
- lowering speed limits in areas with high levels of pedestrian and/or cycling activity, such as in the Brisbane CBD, on David Low Way, Coolum between Beach Road and Margaret Street and in the Cairns CBD within Florence Street, McLeod Street, Spence Street and the Esplanade.

Information and messaging to road users is another key approach to behaviour change and the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) continues to improve road use culture through education campaigns.

For example, the ‘Stay Wider of the Rider’ campaign informs road users about Queensland’s Minimum Passing Distance rule and is regularly posted on TMR’s social media. Bicycle rider safety is also addressed regularly through TMR’s StreetSmarts social media channels including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube, with over 160,000 followers, and reaches over 1.5 million road users every month.

TMR’s cycling-related post on 3 November 2020 encouraged drivers to check for bike riders before they pull out from the kerb or open the driver’s side door. This post reached 330,000 people and received 26,000 engagements.