

Question on Notice

No. 683

Asked on 14 July 2020

MR A POWELL ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the North Coast Rail Line and specifically the Landsborough Station—

Will the Minister provide an update on the project to increase the number of parking spaces planned at the Park-and-Ride facility?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Glass House for the question.

As the Member would be aware, the Beerburrum to Nambour Rail (B2N) Upgrade did not even have a business case prepared under the Newman Government, of which he was a Member. It was the Palaszczuk Government that got the business case submitted, committed \$160 million to its design and construction, and secured Australian Government funding to get Stage 1 moving.

The Palaszczuk Government has backed this commitment by progressing the project into the tender phase. On 17 July 2020, around 300 representatives of the construction sector participated in an online industry briefing for the \$550.8 million B2N Upgrade – Stage 1. This was a significant response to an opportunity to prepare companies looking to tender for the B2N Stage 1 construction contract, with the tender process formally commencing August 2020.

This virtual briefing was another example of the Queensland Government's commitment to keeping vital projects moving during the COVID-19 crisis. Now, more than ever, the 333 job opportunities and economic stimulus that Stage 1 of the B2N project will deliver are essential for Queenslanders. That is why the Palaszczuk Government ensured the industry briefing went ahead virtually to avoid potential project delays.

Over the long term, the B2N upgrade will help drive economic benefits for the Sunshine Coast region and Queensland through additional peak hour passenger services, enhanced freight connectivity and improved accessibility.

Included in early works for Stage 1 of the B2N project is a new 300-space Park 'n' Ride facility. This new Park 'n' Ride facility and bus interchange will be constructed on the eastern side of Landsborough station, eliminating the need for commuters from the coast to cross the level crossing to find a carpark.

As has been publicly announced, the tender for early works opened on 7 August 2020. Following assessment, it is expected that the contract for early works will be awarded later in the year, with construction to start in early 2021, weather and construction conditions permitting.

During the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2019 (financial years 2015–16 to 2018–19), the Palaszczuk Government delivered approximately \$2 billion of transport and roads infrastructure investment specifically in the Department of Transport and Main Roads' (TMR) North Coast Region. This includes investment in key projects such as:

- D'Aguilar Highway, Chambers Road to Peterson Road (Woodford) overtaking lane and intersection upgrades, completed 2018

- Kawana Way and Sunshine Coast University Hospital, upgrade roundabout, completed 2019.

The *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2019–20 to 2022–23* (QTRIP) represents a record investment in road and transport infrastructure for the fourth year in a row, with \$23 billion committed over the next four years, supporting an average of approximately 21,500 direct jobs over the life of the program. Approximately \$3.13 billion is committed across TMR's North Coast Region, supporting an estimated average of 3000 direct jobs over the life of the program. Some key projects for TMR's North Coast Region in QTRIP 2019–20 to 2022–23 are:

- Caloundra Road to Sunshine Motorway, total cost of \$812.9 million (jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland governments)
- Caboolture–Bribie Island Road interchange to Steve Irwin Way interchange upgrade, total cost of \$662.5 million (jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland governments)
- Maroochydore Road interchange upgrade, total cost of \$301.2 million (jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland governments).

As part of our COVID-19 economic recovery response, in partnership with the Australian Government, the Palaszczuk Government has announced \$1 billion in new and accelerated funding for road improvements right across Queensland. This funding injection will deliver freight efficiency benefits, improve road safety, sustain local jobs and lift the state's economy. Overall, this \$1 billion of investment in road network improvements is estimated to support approximately 1000 jobs.

This includes more than \$400 million funding in projects announced by the Palaszczuk Government for Queensland roads to supercharge the State's economy through the COVID-19 recovery. This was announced as part of Queensland's Economic Recovery Strategy: *Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs*, to help the State recover from COVID-19 with a focus on backing Queensland jobs.