

## Question on Notice

No. 869

Asked on 12 August 2020

**MR M MCARDLE** ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

### QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise the date on which the physical construction of the Landsborough Rail overpass will commence?

### ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Caloundra for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to delivering the Beerburrum to Nambour Rail Upgrade (B2N) project as part of its progressive upgrade of the North Coast Line to improve capacity, safety, efficiency and reliability.

The Australian and Queensland governments have committed \$550.8 million towards Stage 1 of the B2N project, with \$390 million Australian Government funding and \$160.8 million Queensland Government funding. However—as the full scope of the B2N cannot be delivered for the currently committed funding of \$550.8 million—it will be delivered in stages to provide immediate community benefits in Stage 1, while investigating funding options for future stages.

Stage 1 will deliver three new bridges, expand three Park 'n' Ride facilities, and duplicate the section of rail track between Beerburrum and Beerwah. In Landsborough, approximately 300 additional parking spaces will be provided on the eastern side of the station, eliminating the need for commuters to traverse the level crossing to find a carpark. A new bus interchange will also be created on the eastern side of Landsborough station. This will be completed as part of the Stage 1 early works, with work due to start in early 2021.

Replacement of the Caloundra Street level crossing in Landsborough with a road-over-rail solution is in scope for future stages, which also includes track duplication between Beerwah and Landsborough, extension of passing loops at Landsborough, Eudlo and Woombye stations, duplication of platforms and station accessibility upgrades at Mooloolah, Eudlo, Palmwoods and Woombye, and re-signalling of the corridor from Landsborough to Nambour stations.

Additional funds are required to deliver the full scope, which includes the Landsborough rail overpass, and the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) will continue to progress funding contributions with the Australian Government in the context of the South East Queensland City Deal and Faster Rail processes. The Member should note that a Geelong rail duplication project in Victoria received 80:20 Australian Government funding, and the Bruce Highway which runs alongside the rail line also receives 80:20 funding. The Member is advised to lobby his Federal LNP colleagues for a fairer deal on rail funding for the Sunshine Coast.

It was the Palaszczuk Government that got this project moving again by completing the planning and submitting a business case to the Australian Government, after the Newman Government failed to progress the project. Public transport on the Sunshine Coast languished under the State LNP, and it is Labor that has a serious plan, backed up with actions like the Beerburrum to Nambour rail upgrade that is delivering for the region.

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 TMR's 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 in 2018
- Kawana Way and Sunshine Coast University Hospital roundabout upgrade, completed in 2019.

The current four-year *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 approximately 3000 direct jobs over the life of the program. Some key projects for TMR's North Coast region in QTRIP 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.

Projects to receive new funding in TMR's North Coast region as part of the stimulus package include:

- \$18 million for the Six Mile Creek Bridge upgrade along Pomona–Kin Kin Road – estimated to support an average of 28 direct jobs over the life of the project
- \$9.5 million for the Beckmans Road and Cooroy–Noosa Road intersection upgrade – estimated to support an average of 18 direct jobs over the life of the project
- \$3.75 million for the Caloundra Road and Ridgewood Road intersection upgrade – estimated to support an average of 12 direct jobs over the life of the project.