

Question on Notice

No. 870

Asked on 12 August 2020

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Palaszczuk Government providing \$7.5m taxpayer funds toward Sunshine Coast Council's Business Case for a Mass Transit Solution and the Minister's answer to Question on Notice No. 1116 asked on 20 August 2019 regarding an assurance that the Palaszczuk Government will ensure that extensive public consultation occurs at appropriate points during the process—

Will the Minister advise (a) how much public consultation the Sunshine Coast Council has engaged in to date, (b) if any public consultation has taken place with regard to Sunshine Coast Council's plan in its current and most recent form, (c) if public consultation has included, or made mention of, urbanisation strategies (d) if Sunshine Coast Council has engaged in public consultation after the new South East Queensland Regional Plan was issued in 2017 establishing different criteria with regard to population growth and infill targets?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Kawana for the question.

In response to questions (a) to (d), as the development of the preliminary business case for the Sunshine Coast Mass Transit (SCMT) project falls under the jurisdiction of Sunshine Coast Council (SCC), it would be appropriate for the Member to direct the questions regarding public consultation to SCC.

Significant projects such as the SCMT are subject to a multi-phase business case, including strategic, preliminary and detailed business cases to be finalised and approved before they are considered for funding by the Australian and Queensland governments.

TMR will have involvement during the detailed business case phase, and will ensure extensive public consultation occurs at that time. Feedback received will be given due consideration and TMR will ensure the community is kept informed of the key issues raised.

The Palaszczuk Government remains committed to working with council and key stakeholders in order to provide the best possible value-for-money public passenger transport services to meet the needs of both residents and visitors on the Sunshine Coast.

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 district. 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, upgrade roundabout, 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 district, supporting an estimated average of 3000 direct jobs over the life of the program. Some key projects for TMR's North Coast district 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.