

Question on Notice

No. 725

Asked on Wednesday 14 April 2010

MR SHINE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR MAIN ROADS (MR WALLACE)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide an update on work being carried out on the New England Highway within my electorate?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Toowoomba North for the question.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads, in conjunction with Toowoomba Regional Council, is undertaking a \$9.7 million project to upgrade the New England Highway (Ruthven Street) and Jellicoe Street intersection in Toowoomba.

This project is the last in a series of projects to upgrade sections of the New England Highway, including seven intersections, through Toowoomba.

Major service (Telstra, water, sewerage and electricity) relocation works commenced in late April 2009 and were completed in January 2010.

The civil works have commenced on the western side of the intersection with the pavement currently under construction.

When completed, the realigned intersection will reduce the sharp curve on Ruthven Street and the uneven nature of the road surface in the vicinity of the intersection. The upgrade will also provide two dedicated through lanes in each direction (north and south-bound), dedicated right turn lanes (north and south-bound) and a left-turn lane into Jellicoe Street for north-bound traffic.

On Jellicoe Street, for east-bound traffic there will be two through lanes and a dedicated right-turn lane; for west-bound traffic there will be one through lane and a dedicated right-turn lane.

In addition, the project includes upgraded traffic signals and new route lighting.

The project is currently expected to be completed in September 2010.

The other projects already completed in this program of works include: -

- Griffiths Street intersection upgrade – completed in October 2006. This work included widening of central medians and dedicated turn lanes, as well as the installation of traffic signals at a total cost of \$630,000.
- Campbell Street intersection upgrade – completed in May 2007. This work included widening of the intersection, with central medians and dedicated right-turn lanes and the

upgrade of traffic signals. Additionally, these works included the separation of southbound traffic for improved flow to Chalk Drive and the CBD at a total cost of \$1.33 million.

- James Street to Long Street intersection upgrade – completed in July 2009. These widening works included central medians, dedicated turn lanes and the upgrade of traffic signals at the James Street and Long Street intersections. This project also involved the installation of traffic signals at the Perth Street intersection, the closure of through access on Stephen Street and the installation of the storm water system on Ruthven Street at a total cost of \$12.95 million.
- Alderley Street intersection upgrade – completed in April 2008. This upgrade involved widening, including central medians and dedicated left and right-turn lanes. These works also involved the upgrade of traffic signals and the storm water system through the intersection at a total cost of \$4.83 million.
- Spring Street to Nelson Street construction – completed in August 2009. This project included construction of 1.5km of four-lane carriageway, with central medians and dedicated left and right-turn lanes, installation of traffic signals at Nelson Street and improvements to the storm water system at a total cost of \$11.2 million.

These projects are improving the safety and efficiency of the New England Highway and allowing for increased traffic volumes in the future.