

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Maley to the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics:

Federal Labor \$200 million Remote and Regional Roads Package

Questions:

- 1. Federal Labor has promised an additional \$200 million package to improve remote and regional roads including Santa Teresa Road and Mereenie Loop Road. How much will go to these two roads and how much will go toward other remote and regional roads?**

On 25 October 2022, the Commonwealth Budget was released with a new program titled 'Northern Territory Strategic Roads Package'. This package includes the \$200 million Federal Labor election commitment and the \$132 million announced in the May 2022 budget for 'Central Australian Tourism Roads'.

Funding is provided on a 80-20 basis. The NT Government will work closely with the Australian Government, the community and stakeholders to ensure funding for remote roads infrastructure projects is allocated to the highest regional priorities.

An Investment Strategy will be prepared to allocate funding based on network priorities and stakeholder feedback.

- 2. Over how many years will this additional funding be programmed?**

The funding is currently scheduled to commence this financial year. Funding is forecast to the 2025-26 financial year and with the balance of the funding allocated to 2026-27 onwards.

- 3. How much funding will the NT Government contribute to these road upgrades?**

Please refer to Question 1.

- 4. In 2020, the Labor Government said it would upgrade the Mungkarta Road. How is this progressing and what has been done since?**

The detailed design has been completed for the upgrade of the intersection of Mungkarta Road with the Stuart Highway. This project is being considered for funding under the Australian Government's Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) Alice Springs to Darwin corridor.

- 5. When will the Sandover Highway, the Murray Downs Road and the Elkedra Road receive much needed upgrades? Are there any plans to seal these roads?**

A consultancy contract was awarded to Fyfe Pty Ltd on 17 June 2022, to undertake the detail design for the upgrade and seal of Sandover Highway from chainage 170.20km through to chainage 217.00km. Anticipated completion date for the detailed design is Q1 2023, with anticipated construction of the first package of this section, to commence in the second half of 2023.

6. When will the Tablelands Highway be widened and re-sealed?

A priority section of the Tablelands Highway from chainage 82.6km through to chainage 101.28km has been identified by stakeholders for upgrading.

This project is being considered for funding as a feeder road under the Australian Government's Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) Tennant Creek to Townsville corridor.

Subject to funding approval, design and planning activities could commence in 2023.

7. Is there a regular maintenance program in place for the King Ash Bay Road? If so, how many times per year is the road graded? Are there any plans in place to seal the road?

The road is graded two to three times a year with a full maintenance grade before the wet and an invert to invert grade after the wet. A second invert to invert grade is carried out if required.