1. The Gateway Motorway and the Bruce Highway are vital components of the National Land Transport Network and serve as a critical link for long distance traffic between major economic and employment hubs on the east coast of Australia. They provide access to the Australian Trade Coast and Brisbane Airport. The Gateway Motorway and the Bruce Highway carry high volumes of freight, commercial, tourist and commuter traffic, and are some of the busiest roads in Queensland.
2. Significant population growth in north Brisbane and south Moreton regions has resulted in increased traffic demand, which is already compromising the performance and reliability of the Gateway Motorway, the Bruce Highway and the Gympie Arterial Road.
3. Demand forecasts indicate that traffic levels currently experienced on the Gateway Motorway, the Bruce Highway and the Gympie Arterial Road would increase by around 50 per cent by 2041. Without upgrades, the significant increase in congestion would severely restrict the movement of freight, tourism, industry and commuters, directly impacting the Queensland economy.
4. A total of $2.098 billion is allocated (on an 80:20 federal:state basis) to both the Gateway Motorway (Bracken Ridge to Pine River) and the Bruce Highway (Pine River and Caloundra Corridor – Future Priorities). This comprises $1 billion for the Gateway Motorway (Bracken Ridge to Pine River) and $1.098 billion for the Bruce Highway (Pine River to Caloundra Corridor – Future Priorities). On 3 April 2018, as part of the $1.098 billion, the Australian Government announced a commitment of $120 million federal funding (on an 80:20 basis) towards a $150 million project to provide north-facing ramps at the Dohles Rocks Road interchange at Murrumba Downs.
5. Cabinet noted the significant current and anticipated demands on the Gateway Motorway, Bruce Highway and Gympie Arterial Road and the need to deliver a whole-of-network solution which accommodates the Australian Government’s priority of north-facing ramps at the Dohles Rocks Road interchange.
6. Cabinet noted the $2.098 billion in joint Queensland and Australian Government funding is allocated to both the Gateway Motorway and the Bruce Highway.
7. Cabinet approved the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) to proceed to develop a whole-of-network solution which encompasses upgrades to the Gateway Motorway (Bracken Ridge to Pine River), Bruce Highway (Gateway Motorway to Dohles Rocks Road) and Gympie Arterial Road (Strathpine Road to Gateway Motorway) as well as the delivery of a future intra-regional road along the North-South Urban Arterial corridor between Dohles Rocks Road and Anzac Avenue, as a prerequisite to delivering the Australian Government’s priority north-facing ramps at the Dohles Rocks Road interchange, Murrumba Downs.
8. Cabinet noted TMR would be commencing community consultation from mid-2020 on the proposed whole-of-network solution.
9. *Attachments*
* Nil.