

Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Portfolio:	Roads & Road Safety
Witness:	The Hon Ben Carroll MP
Committee Member:	Mr Richard Riordan MP
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Question:

While we are on the subject of not-yet-complete projects, page 345 of budget paper 3, only 60 per cent of road projects in metropolitan Melbourne and 78 per cent of projects in regional Victoria were completed within the agreed scope and standards. Minister, do you agree that these are not brilliant results in a year when you would have thought, from a construction point of view, you know, road conditions were pretty favourable? If so, what will you be demanding of the department to ensure that is not repeated?

In this particular case I am specifically referring to the Princes Highway upgrade, which has functionally been opened but is still not complete because you cannot get accesses to the six properties.

Answer:

Since fully opening in November 2019, the duplication of the Princes Highway has delivered significant safety benefits to those travelling to South Western Victoria. The project has applied an access management strategy which also contributes to the safety benefits of the upgrade. Road safety infrastructure, including flexible and centreline barriers, was installed to prevent and reduce the most common type of crashes.

Flexible safety barriers prevent head on and run off road crashes - historically the most common types of fatal and serious injury crashes.

Centreline barrier, which prevents head on collisions, is most effective when installed continuously along a stretch of road. When designing centreline barrier projects, each location is considered individually and design solutions applied that will increase safety for all road users and the broader community, while minimising impacts to local residents.

The Department of Transport engaged directly with affected landowners at the start and throughout this duplication project to ensure that their legal access points were included in the design. We continue to work with landowners and to date we have resolved individual concerns of which we are aware.