

Question on Notice

No. 1216

Asked on 13 October 2021

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide the annual patronage and government subsidy per passenger trip for direct operating costs for each of the following Queensland Rail services (reported separately for each of the past three financial years (actuals) and the next three financial years (forecasts)) (a) Spirit of Queensland, (b) Spirit of the Outback, (c) Tilt Train, (d) Westlander and (e) Inlander?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Southern Downs for the question.

The Queensland Government currently subsidises Traveltrain services via the Rail Transport Services Contract. Traveltrain services—including the *Spirit of Queensland*, *Spirit of the Outback*, *Tilt Train* (Rockhampton and Bundaberg), *Westlander* and *Inlander*—play an important role in connecting Queensland communities. It is vital to provide subsidised Traveltrain services for Queensland's regional communities, as these services ensure regional, rural and remote communities have access to essential medical, educational, cultural and business services.

Queensland Rail is responsible for the safe, efficient and reliable delivery of these services, and its network offers the largest and most comprehensive long-distance trains in Australia. The annual actual patronage and actual government subsidy per passenger trip, based on operating costs for the Queensland Rail services, are outlined in the table below.

		Actual		
		FY 2019	FY 2020**	FY 2021**
<i>Spirit of Queensland</i>	Patronage	112,080	90,621	61,984
	Government subsidy per passenger trip	\$712.12	\$894.92	\$1368.12
<i>Spirit of the Outback</i>	Patronage	13,780	9242	9628
	Government subsidy per passenger trip	\$1553.56	\$2246.81	\$2717.04
<i>Tilt train*</i>	Patronage	217,376	171,238	122,162
	Government subsidy per passenger trip	\$243.19	\$328.51	\$537.72
<i>Westlander</i>	Patronage	4298	3084	2999
	Government subsidy per passenger trip	\$3461.58	\$4597.34	\$4928.90
<i>Inlander</i>	Patronage	4179	3447	2833
	Government subsidy per passenger trip	\$3027.85	\$3814.74	\$5086.06
Total patronage		351,713	277,632	199,606
Average subsidy		\$516.38	\$667.95	\$1031.23

*Rockhampton and Bundaberg.

**Patronage numbers in FY 2020 and FY 2021 were impacted by COVID-19 health directives.

The forecast patronage and forecast government subsidy per passenger trip, based on operating costs for the Queensland Rail services, from 2021–22 to 2023–24 are outlined in the table below.

		Forecast		
		FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
<i>Spirit of Queensland</i>	Patronage	65,124	100,248	100,248
	Government subsidy per passenger trip	\$1179.59	\$691.72	\$711.77
<i>Spirit of the Outback</i>	Patronage	8919	11,050	11,050
	Government subsidy per passenger trip	\$2838.44	\$2361.26	\$2488.60
<i>Tilt train*</i>	Patronage	138,131	216,577	216,577
	Government subsidy per passenger trip	\$440.98	\$253.07	\$257.38
<i>Westlander</i>	Patronage	3759	4253	4253
	Government subsidy per passenger trip	\$3837.72	\$3646.61	\$3864.17
<i>Inlander</i>	Patronage	3522	4466	4466
	Government subsidy per passenger trip	\$4464.71	\$3723.82	\$3839.72
Total patronage		219,455	336,593	336,593
Average subsidy		\$880.36	\$541.85	\$559.07

*Rockhampton and Bundaberg.