

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 1593**

**Asked on 1 December 2021**

**MR D PURDIE** ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

### **QUESTION:**

With reference to public transport services on the Sunshine Coast –

Will the Minister (a) provide an update on when additional public transport services will be provided to service the rapidly growing areas north of the Maroochy River (b) advise when the existing bus route serving the Bli Bli community will be extended into those areas of high need, including the retirement villages and large residential development, which currently aren't serviced by the route and (c) provide an update on the provision of additional school bus services that have been identified to cater for the increased number of students attending Bli Bli schools?

### **ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for Ninderry for the question.

- a) The Palaszczuk Government recognises the importance of continued investment in our public transport network to enable Queenslanders to connect to health services, education, jobs and with each other. The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) monitors areas of growth across Queensland to identify where services may need to be improved. TMR has been monitoring growth in areas north of the Maroochy River, such as Bli Bli, and planning for improved services for residents.

On 8 May 2019, the Queensland Government committed \$7.5 million, to be matched by Sunshine Coast Council (SCC), towards the joint development of a detailed business case for the first stage of an integrated urban public transport solution for the Sunshine Coast. SCC has led the options analysis as part of planning for mass transit and, on 20 October 2021, the Mass Transit Options Analysis Report was endorsed by SCC. With the options analysis complete, the next phase of the project is to undertake a detailed business case. Community feedback received for the options analysis report will be a key consideration in its development.

TMR is undertaking strategic planning for transport on the Sunshine Coast and is committed to increasing public transport patronage. With the majority of the Sunshine Coast's 320,000 residents living between Maroochydore and inland to Beerwah, and with an additional 190,000 expected to call the region home by 2041, this planning is a priority to keep people moving during this period of expected growth.

- b) TMR is currently working with the bus operator to plan the extension of route 612 to the newly developed Parklakes 2 estate, Good Samaritan Catholic College and nearby retirement villages.
- c) TMR operates a large and complex integrated schools' network which prioritises the transport of students to the nearest state school within their catchment area. TMR provides funding for eleven school buses in Bli Bli which service the local state schools within the catchment (Bli Bli Primary, Nambour State College and Maroochydore High), as well as Immanuel Lutheran College, St Josephs Primary School, St Johns College, Matthew Flinders Anglican College, Nambour Christian College, Stella Maris Catholic Primary and Sienna Catholic College).

Two additional services were implemented in 2020 for students travelling from Mons, Buderim, Coolum, Mudjimba, Maroochydore, Diddilbah and Bli Bli to Good Samaritan Catholic College. TMR continues to work with its service delivery partners on opportunities for improved services to Bli Bli schools as part of our ongoing school service changes.