

Question on Notice

No. 956

Asked on 1 September 2021

MR R STEVENS ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise (a) how many additional train drivers and guards will be required to operate the expanded rail fleet that will be in place once Cross River Rail opens and (b) the date when hiring and training for these drivers will commence?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Mermaid Beach for the question.

Queensland Rail, the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority (the Delivery Authority) and the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) are working closely together to support the planning, delivery and implementation of the Cross River Rail project.

Train crew requirements will depend on a number of factors, including the long-term impacts of COVID-19 on public transport. In Queensland, patronage remains at approximately 70 per cent of pre-pandemic levels. Network planning experts from TMR, Queensland Rail, and the Delivery Authority will continue to monitor developments over the next four years to Cross River Rail opening.

As part of the project development process, Queensland Rail is working with TMR and the Delivery Authority to develop the future service plan. The exact number of rollingstock and traincrew required at the opening of Cross River Rail will be identified through this ongoing work. Queensland Rail will continue to maintain an adequate supply of traincrew to meet service level requirements.

Cross River Rail is due to be operational in four years and the exact configuration and frequency of rail services, and the associated rollingstock and traincrew requirements, will be planned for well ahead of its opening.