

Question on Notice

No. 113

Asked on 24 February 2022

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Queensland Rail (QR) heritage operations based at the Ipswich Workshop—

Will the Minister advise (a) how many heritage rail services QR has operated each financial year since 2015–16, (b) the minimum and maximum number of staff employed at the Ipswich Workshop each financial year for the last 5 financial years and (c) the minimum and maximum number of QR train drivers accredited to operate steam engines in each financial year for the last 5 financial years?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Scenic Rim for the question.

Financial Year	Number of Heritage Services
2015-16	113
2016-17	128
2017-18	82
2018-19	65
2019-20	35
2020-21	20
2021-22 (as at 1 March)	9 (plus four planned services)

Over the past five years, Queensland Rail has supported Heritage services from chartering organisations, as well as Exhibition steam circular services and diesel hauled Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers shuttle services. During 2017, 2018 and 2019 there were four main chartering organisations utilising Queensland Rail Heritage services. In 2020, the only remaining chartering organisation was Australian Railway Historical Society.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, steam operations have ceased due to driver cab social distancing restrictions. Australian Railway Historical Society has, in turn, not requested any regular charters as its customers prefer steam hauled Heritage train services.

Queensland Rail's Heritage fleet is stored and maintained at the Ipswich workshops. The following table includes the number of staff employed at the Ipswich Workshop for the last five financial years.

Financial Year	Number of staff at Ipswich Workshops
2016-17	Min 28 Max 31
2017-18	Min 31 Max 33
2018-19	Min 29 Max 32
2019-20	Min 29 Max 32
2020-21	Min 24 Max 30

Over the last five financial years, Queensland Rail has maintained an adequate supply of train drivers to run heritage services. The following table includes the number of Queensland Rail accredited train drivers to operate steam engine for the last five financial years.

Financial Year	Number of Steam Drivers
2016-2017	4
2017-2018	2
2018-2019	6
2019-2020	7
2020-2021	5