

Question on Notice

No. 1298

Asked on 9 November 2022

MS F SIMPSON ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Minister confirming on 26 October 2022 in Parliament that the Federal Government Budget allocation of \$1.6b funding for the Sunshine Coast Direct Line will be honoured—

Will the Minister advise (a) if this funding is subject to the State matching 50:50 funding, (b) will the State match this funding to make the project happen and (c) when will this commence?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Maroochydore for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government is investing at record levels to deliver better rail services, including on the Sunshine Coast, and is progressing a number of projects in the region in partnership with the Australian Government.

In 2021, I wrote to the Australian Government seeking matched funding of \$3 million for investment planning for the Sunshine Coast Direct Line (formerly known as the Beerwah to Maroochydore rail extension) and was pleased when this was announced in December 2021. State and federal government departments continue to work collaboratively to deliver detailed planning and analysis of the proposed rail extension.

As I confirmed in Parliament on 26 October 2022, unlike the previous Federal Government, the Albanese Government passed its budget which allocated \$1.6 billion in funding for the Sunshine Coast Direct Line. The previous government had the opportunity to pass its budget to allocate the funding to the Sunshine Coast Direct Line, but made the decision not to.

Any future project investment decisions will need to be made after the finalisation of the planning, scoping, and costing work that is currently underway, so we understand the real cost of this important project. The commencement date of the project will be an important part of the discussions with the Australian Government once detailed planning is finalised.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to delivering better public transport services to the Sunshine Coast region, and looks forward to working together with the Australian Government through the planning stages of this and other key infrastructure projects across the Sunshine Coast region.