

## Question on Notice

No. 4

Asked on 22 February 2022

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

### QUESTION:

With reference to the draft Southern Sunshine Coast Public Transport Strategy—

Will the Minister advise what consideration is being given to the public transport needs of the growing population areas north of the Maroochy River?

### ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Ninderry for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to delivering a single integrated transport network accessible to everyone. As a fast-growing and maturing urban area, the Sunshine Coast community has growing demands and expectations for better public transport. The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is seeking to deliver a more attractive public transport network to support development, productivity, and liveability on the whole of the Sunshine Coast.

The draft Southern Sunshine Coast Public Transport Strategy (the draft Strategy), released for community comment earlier this year, was an action of the *Regional Transport Plans for South East Queensland*. The draft Strategy sets out a strategic vision for public transport in the area between Beerwah and Maroochydore, as this section of the Sunshine Coast has the highest travel demands and the most complex transport network, when compared to areas north of the Maroochy River.

The draft Strategy aims to enable planners to develop viable public transport corridors in parts of the Sunshine Coast experiencing congestion and forecast population growth.

The Palaszczuk Government is also committed to the needs of Sunshine Coast communities north of the Maroochy River and in the hinterland. TMR works with the Sunshine Coast and Noosa councils to monitor development and travel needs north of the Maroochy River and is currently planning several bus route and infrastructure improvements to existing and new growth areas. New routes, bus stop and station improvements will be announced as planning is completed and are approved for delivery.

On 17 March 2022, the Palaszczuk Government was pleased to announce early works have commenced on the Beerburrum to Nambour Rail Upgrade (Stage 1) which will improve public transport connectivity from Nambour to the rest of South Eastern Queensland. Our government will continue to invest in the transport needs of the Sunshine Coast. The *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2021–22 to 2024–25* represents a record investment of \$27.5 billion in our roads and transport infrastructure. This includes a \$2.9 billion investment in TMR's North Coast region, supporting 2640 direct jobs.