

Question on Notice

No. 751

Asked on 16 August 2022

MR T WATTS ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

With reference to Translink Bus Services and other government funded bus services in Toowoomba—

Will the Minister advise (a) how many services in the Toowoomba North Electorate have been cancelled since January 2021, (b) how many FTE bus drivers are needed to ensure every Toowoomba bus service runs and (c) how many FTE bus drivers are currently employed in Toowoomba?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Toowoomba North for the question.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads' Translink Division (Translink) contracts delivery partners to provide public transport services across the state. Bus Queensland (Toowoomba Transit) are the delivery partner that services the Toowoomba area.

Toowoomba Transit have reported the number of drivers required to deliver services in Toowoomba, as at 22 August 2022, was 76 and the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) drivers employed was 64.

Driver requirements vary depending on the mix of full-, part-time and casual drivers in the workforce. The number of FTE drivers required to deliver the network is a contractual responsibility of the delivery partner to determine and manage. There are many factors influencing the number of drivers required to deliver a network such as:

- enterprise agreements dictating shift hours and meal breaks
- drivers ability to work full-time, part-time or casually
- route length and distance between start and end of routes
- allowances for holidays and sickness.

Between January 2021 and July 2022, there have been 538 cancelled urban services out of a total of 98,515 scheduled services across the entire Toowoomba network. This equates to 0.55 per cent. Translink is unable to determine network data by electoral areas as data is captured by contract area, not electorates.

More recently—like many other delivery partners—Toowoomba Transit have experienced higher numbers of driver unavailability due to above average absenteeism and illness associated with COVID-19 and seasonal influenza. This has recently impacted the delivery of some services in Toowoomba with a higher than usual number of cancellations being experienced.

Translink has worked with Toowoomba Transit to list any expected cancellations on the Translink website ahead of time to assist passengers to plan for any interruptions.