

Question on Notice

No. 992

Asked on 12 October 2022

MS S BOLTON ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the report in budget estimates of a commitment of \$1.5m to undertake pre-investment planning for the North Coast Rail Line—

Will the Minister confirm (a) the objective, scope and timeline for this project and (b) that it includes to Gympie North?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Noosa for the question.

The Australian and Queensland governments have committed \$1.5 million to the Brisbane to Sunshine Coast Rail Corridor Strategy (the strategy), to undertake pre-investment planning for the North Coast Line between Brisbane and Gympie North, with consideration of a future line direct to the Sunshine Coast.

The strategy will review demand for the North Coast Line and how this rail line will support strong predicted growth in the regions of Gympie, Noosa, the Sunshine Coast, Moreton Bay and Brisbane into the future.

The strategy will guide future non-infrastructure and infrastructure investment opportunities to improve network capacity, travel times, safety, resilience and efficiency for passengers and freight on the North Coast Line to 2051. It will also identify further detailed planning required to reflect the whole of rail network considerations and priorities such as project staging, constructability, and operational plans and timetables.

The strategy is currently underway and is expected to be completed in 2023. This strategy will build on the recently released *SEQ Rail Connect*, the State's blueprint to guide future investment for the South-East Queensland rail network.