

Question on Notice

No. 1178

Asked on 10 October 2023

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Toowoomba to Brisbane Passenger Rail Business Case, the website currently reports that ‘The Australian Government is considering the findings of the Strategic Business Case, which will inform the next steps for the Project’ and this was last updated in March 2022—

Will the Minister detail when the construction of the railway will begin in preparation for the 2032 Olympic Games?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Toowoomba North for the question.

Under the Inland Rail Bilateral Agreement, the Australian and Queensland governments have partnered to deliver the Toowoomba to Brisbane Passenger Rail Strategic Business Case to determine the need, timing, and potential solutions for passenger rail requirements in the Toowoomba to Brisbane corridor. This study has been wholly funded by the Australian Government.

During the study’s development, the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has led technical investigations and engaged with key stakeholders—including local governments within the study area—to capture local planning, economic, environmental, and social insights. The Toowoomba to Brisbane Passenger Rail Strategic Business Case assumes the delivery of the Australian Government’s Inland Rail project.

TMR is working with the Australian Government to determine next steps for the project, following an independent review of Inland Rail, which prioritises delivery of the Melbourne/Beveridge to New South Wales/Parkes sections over the next four years.

The Australian Government is still considering the findings of the Strategic Business Case.