

Question on Notice

No. 1391

Asked on 14 November 2023

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the preliminary evaluation of the Sunshine Coast Direct Line (Beerwah to Maroochydore passenger rail) completed in December of 2022 identifying two options with sensitivity tests for each option—

Will the Minister advise what those two options are that were progressed for evaluation in the Business Case, which was due for final submission to TMR for review on 13 October 2023?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Maroochydore for the question.

The proposed Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line project would deliver a new 37-kilometre passenger rail line linking the key growth areas and tourist destinations of the Sunshine Coast to Moreton Bay, Brisbane, and beyond, via a single seat journey. The Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line project would deliver faster and more reliable journey times, help reduce congestion, while also providing more accessible and inclusive travel options for the Sunshine Coast.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads has been undertaking planning in accordance with Queensland Treasury's Project Assessment Framework, which includes a preliminary evaluation that explored the priority and affordability of project options to inform a decision on whether to invest in fully developing a business case.

The preliminary evaluation considered a range of options. Two options were identified to be progressed for evaluation in a full business case—delivering a rail line with four stations or a rail line with six stations.

A \$14 million business case for the Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line project is currently being finalised and includes consideration of the outcomes of the community consultation undertaken in mid-2023. This consultation sought feedback on several aspects of the project design, including six proposed stations. Business case outcomes are due for consideration by the Queensland and Australian governments in 2024.