

Question on Notice

No. 272

Asked on 28 March 2023

MR B MICKELBERG ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

With reference to State Government subsidised school bus services on the Sunshine Coast—

Will the Minister advise (a) seated capacity utilisation rate, (b) average patronage per service, (c) total fare revenue, (d) total subsidies paid to external operators and (e) any other costs incurred by the State Government associated with delivering school bus services?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Buderim for the question.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is responsible for providing a single, integrated transport network accessible to everyone. TMR works closely with delivery partners to plan and deliver passenger transport services across the State. All routes are operated under service contracts.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to providing support to Queensland families to assist with the cost of transporting students to and from school. The Palaszczuk Government invests approximately \$180 million annually, to fund the School Transport Assistance Scheme (STAS). STAS provides assistance to approximately 130,000 school students in Queensland on rail, bus and ferry services and through the payment of conveyance allowance to parents as a contribution towards the cost of transporting their children to and from school.

In the 2021–22 financial year, over 45,000 school bus services ran on the Sunshine Coast which equates to approximately 1.5 million student trips. These services carry a high proportion of STAS students.

STAS related patronage is about 66 per cent of all trips conducted on school services on the Sunshine Coast. With reference to State Government subsidised school bus services on the Sunshine Coast for 2021–22 financial year:

- (a) the seated capacity utilisation rate was approximately 55 per cent
- (b) there were approximately 33 students per service
- (c) total fare revenue was approximately \$650,000 excluding GST
- (d) total payments to bus operators were approximately \$15.4 million excluding GST to operate these services
- (e) there are no other costs incurred by the State Government associated with the delivery of school bus services.