

Question on Notice

No. 292

Asked on 29 March 2023

MRS L GERBER ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

With reference to seniors receiving free bus tickets from the Gold Coast City Council and the state government not offering this to seniors for the Gold Coast light rail—

Will the Minister introduce free tickets for seniors using the light rail, if the light rail is going to replace some of the bus routes on the Gold Coast, and given the rising cost of living?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Currumbin for the question.

Gold Coast Light Rail is a stellar public transport success story and has caused a shift towards public transport from private motor vehicles on the Gold Coast. That's why the Palaszczuk Government, in partnership with Gold Coast City Council and the Australian Government, is extending light rail to Burleigh Heads with a business case to further extend light rail to Coolangatta underway.

Public transport services including light rail, buses and heavy rail are designed to complement each other and deliver an integrated transport system that allows the community to easily get around the Gold Coast.

Similar to Stages 1 and 2 of Gold Coast Light Rail, light rail will replace some bus services as part of any future stages.

Australians with a valid Seniors Card from any state or territory are already eligible for a 50 per cent concession fare on all forms of Translink supported public transport services. In Queensland, the Seniors Card is issued by the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships.

The Palaszczuk Government currently subsidises public transport costs by around 80 per cent. Provision of free transport for seniors has been implemented on some bus networks and funded by local governments. Questions about discounts above and beyond the 50 per cent concession fare on Gold Coast Light Rail should be directed to Gold Coast City Council.