

Question on Notice

No. 695

Asked on 25 May 2023

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise (a) the dates that the Public Transport Fares Advisory Panel met in 2022 and (b) any recommendations from the panel during this time?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Glass House for the question.

The Public Transport Fares Advisory Panel (panel) was established as a recommendation of the Southeast Queensland Fare Review Taskforce, to provide independent expert advice to inform future government decisions on public transport fares, products and ticketing. Panel members have a broad range of expertise, including specialist transport knowledge, community insights, regional perspectives and industry experience.

While the panel's advice is important to government decision making, it remains the government's role to set fares considering factors such as operational costs, government priorities and community views.

On 5 September 2022, the panel met and considered Smart Ticketing implementation and post-COVID-19 patronage growth but did not make any specific recommendations.

On 28 October 2022, the panel provided advice out-of-session about the annual fare increase for public transport from January 2023. The panel advised an increase of between three and four per cent could assist in balancing impacts on customers and providing some cost base relief. In line with this advice, the Palaszczuk Government then raised South East Queensland fares by three per cent in January 2023, well short of the September Consumer Price Index (CPI) figure of 7.9 per cent.

Public transport fares are adjusted regularly to reflect increasing costs of service provision and are traditionally based on changes to the CPI rate. The Palaszczuk Government has taken strong action to make public transport more affordable for Queenslanders. In January 2022, the Palaszczuk Government deferred the South East Queensland annual fare increase until 4 July 2022 to support Queenslanders during a challenging stage of the pandemic.