

## Question on Notice

No. 811

Asked on 15 June 2023

**MR J LISTER** ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS AND MINISTER FOR DIGITAL SERVICES (HON M BAILEY)—

### QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide the annual patronage and government subsidy per passenger trip for direct operating costs for each of the following Queensland Rail services (reported separately for each of the past three financial years (actuals) and the next three financial years (forecasts)) for (a) Spirit of Queensland, (b) Spirit of the Outback, (c) Tilt Train, (d) Westlander and (e) Inlander?

### ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Southern Downs for the question.

Queensland Rail has a proud history of connecting communities across the state, including in the regions. Queensland Rail offers the largest network of long-distance and tourism rail experiences in Australia and plays an important role in connecting regional Queensland communities.

The travel and tourism products provide unique rail experiences and access to Queensland's outback, Gulf Savannah rainforests and the Great Barrier Reef. The network also provides a vital connection for Queenslanders visiting family or friends, or those attending hospital or specialist appointments and are unable to travel by other modes of transport. Concessions are provided where appropriate.

Queensland Rail receives a subsidy through the Transport Services Contract (TSC) with the Department of Transport and Main Roads towards operating costs to deliver a quality regional travel service for Queensland. The TSC subsidy is allocated on total costs less revenue, and a share of return on assets (revenue margin).

Annual patronage and government subsidy per passenger trip for the requested financial years can be found below.

#### (a) *Spirit of Queensland*

- 2020–2021 (actual)
  - Patronage – 61,984
  - Government Subsidy per Passenger trip – \$1368.
- 2021–2022 (actual)
  - Patronage – 78,641
  - Government Subsidy per Passenger trip – \$953.
- 2022–2023 (actual)
  - Patronage – 95,363
  - Government Subsidy per Passenger trip – \$831.
- 2023–2024 (forecast)
  - Patronage – 98,785
  - Government Subsidy per Passenger trip – \$749.
- 2024–2025 (forecast)
  - Patronage – 89,941
  - Government Subsidy per Passenger trip – \$884.

- 2025–2026 (forecast)
  - Patronage – 89,733
  - Government Subsidy per Passenger trip – \$874.

**(b) Spirit of the Outback**

- 2020–2021 (actual)
  - Patronage – 9628
  - Government Subsidy per Passenger trip – \$2717.
- 2021–2022 (actual)
  - Patronage – 9242
  - Government Subsidy per Passenger trip – \$3053.
- 2022–2023 (actual)
  - Patronage – 13,041
  - Government Subsidy per Passenger trip – \$2340.
- 2023–2024 (forecast)
  - Patronage – 10,306
  - Government Subsidy per Passenger trip – \$3471.
- 2024–2025 (forecast)
  - Patronage – 13,293
  - Government Subsidy per Passenger trip – \$2609.
- 2025–2026 (forecast)
  - Patronage – 13,278
  - Government Subsidy per Passenger trip – \$2709.

**(c) Tilt Train**

- 2020–2021 (actual)
  - Patronage – 122,162
  - Government Subsidy per Passenger trip – \$537.72.
- 2021–2022 (actual)
  - Patronage – 143,155
  - Government Subsidy per Passenger trip – \$415.03.
- 2022–2023 (actual)
  - Patronage – 222,280
  - Government Subsidy per Passenger trip – \$254.
- 2023–2024 (forecast)
  - Patronage – 204,624
  - Government Subsidy per Passenger trip – \$314.
- 2024–2025 (forecast)
  - Patronage – 215,435
  - Government Subsidy per Passenger trip – \$286.
- 2025–2026 (forecast)
  - Patronage – 196,099
  - Government Subsidy per Passenger trip – \$358.

**(d) Westlander**

- 2020–2021 (actual)
  - Patronage – 2999
  - Government Subsidy per Passenger trip – \$4929.
- 2021–2022 (actual)
  - Patronage – 2523
  - Government Subsidy per Passenger trip – \$5422.
- 2022–2023 (actual)
  - Patronage – 4572
  - Government Subsidy per Passenger trip – \$3336.

- 2023–2024 (forecast)
  - Patronage – 4276
  - Government Subsidy per Passenger trip – \$4081.
- 2024–2025 (forecast)
  - Patronage – 4302
  - Government Subsidy per Passenger trip – \$4547.
- 2025–2026 (forecast)
  - Patronage – 4326
  - Government Subsidy per Passenger trip – \$4633.

**(e) *Inlander***

- 2020–2021 (actual)
  - Patronage – 2833
  - Government Subsidy per Passenger trip – \$5086.
- 2021–2022 (actual)
  - Patronage – 2912
  - Government Subsidy per Passenger trip – \$4399.
- 2022–2023 (actual)
  - Patronage – 4142
  - Government Subsidy per Passenger trip – \$3637.
- 2023–2024 (forecast)
  - Patronage – 4632
  - Government Subsidy per Passenger trip – \$3841.
- 2024–2025 (forecast)
  - Patronage – 4582
  - Government Subsidy per Passenger trip – \$4053.
- 2025–2026 (forecast)
  - Patronage – 4570
  - Government Subsidy per Passenger trip – \$4178.