

Question on Notice

No. 130

Asked on 5 March 2024

MR J BLEIJIE ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS AND MINISTER FOR DIGITAL SERVICES (HON B MELLISH)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister release the full business case for the Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line project in the interest of openness and transparency and if not, why not?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Kawana for the question.

On 7 March 2024, a summary of the Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line project business case was released. It is available for the public to view on the community engagement webpage at www.yoursay-projects.tmr.qld.gov.au/direct-sunshine-coast-rail.

The business case summary includes information about the technical solution, construction challenges, engineering complexities and cost estimates.

As is industry practice, full business cases are not released when they contain information that is commercial-in-confidence. Even Infrastructure Australia does not usually release full business cases and, if so, not until after contracts have been signed and the project is underway. This is because releasing the full business case will impact the competitive tender process with industry, influence commercial negotiations and see taxpayers charged a premium for this project.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads will continue to publish comprehensive project information on its website as it becomes available.