

Question on Notice

No. 872

Asked on 20 August 2024

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

QUESTION:

With reference to October 2020, when the government committed \$1m to a business case to improve services and replace ageing rolling stock on Queensland's long distance train services, the *Westlander*, *Inlander* and *Spirit of the Outback* and the business case was due for completion in late 2023—

Will the Minister advise (a) when this business case will be completed and (b) how any proposed changes will enhance customer experience and support much-needed regional tourism development?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Burnett for the question.

In October 2020, the Queensland Government committed to developing a business case for the replacement of rollingstock on the following regional long-distance passenger rail (LDPR) routes which service western Queensland:

- *Westlander* (Brisbane to Charleville)
- *Inlander* (Townsville to Mt Isa)
- *Spirit of the Outback* (Brisbane to Longreach).

A preliminary Business Case Equivalent has recently been completed by the Department of Transport and Main Roads. Ongoing supplementary analysis is underway to facilitate the refinement and finalisation of the LPDR Western Lines Business Case.

The LPDR Western Lines Business Case investigates new rollingstock, including sleeper, restaurant, lounge/bar and service carriages, along with associated rail infrastructure. It is envisaged that the proposed service offering will have a positive impact on regional tourism outcomes and generate economic activity in regional Queensland.