

Question on Notice

No. 969

Asked on 22 August 2024

MRS L GERBER ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS AND MINISTER FOR DIGITAL SERVICES (HON B MELLISH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Gold Coast Light Rail—

Will the Minister advise (reported separately by stages 3 and 4), (a) the total number of residents contacted during the community engagement period, (b) of the residents contacted: (i) the total number of residents who provided feedback, (ii) the number of corridor residents who provided feedback and a breakdown of their position on the light rail extension and (c) outline the streets included in the corridor?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Currumbin for the question.

Community feedback is welcome from all members of the public during all stages of light rail planning and construction. At the times of specific community engagement activity, a robust engagement program—including proactive media coverage, mail drops, newsletters, targeted advertising, and direct engagement—invited residents and businesses along the alignment to share their views.

Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 3

Engagement with local residents and businesses began in the initial planning stages of Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 3, facilitated by Gold Coast City Council (GCCC) between 2015 and 2017. GCCC has publicly released its Community Research and Engagement Consultation Report, dated 21 September 2017, with 71 per cent of respondents in favour of a light rail extension from Broadbeach to Burleigh Heads.

- (a) In 2018, the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) undertook extensive community consultation to inform the detailed business case. In August 2018, a project newsletter was distributed to 25,000 residents and businesses on the Stage 3 alignment to encourage the community to have their say. The 2018 consultation also included an independent survey involving 500 participants.
- (b) Over 2200 pieces of individual feedback were provided by the community to the project through written feedback forms, online feedback, independent survey responses, and phone and email enquiries.

The 2018 independent survey showed 80 per cent of respondents (400 respondents) lived or worked on the Stage 3 corridor; that is, along the Gold Coast Highway between Broadbeach south and Burleigh Heads. The independent survey confirmed 72 per cent of those surveyed along the Stage 3 corridor supported the project. The remaining 28 per cent were either neutral or not in favour of light rail as the preferred option.

- (c) The Stage 3 project alignment extends from Hooker Boulevard at Broadbeach to Brake Street at Burleigh Heads, running along the Gold Coast Highway, and includes all adjoining streets. An interactive design map of the project can be found on the Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 3 website at <https://www.gclr3.com.au/goldlinq/gclr3/map>.

Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 4

- (a) In 2020, community engagement took place on the Burleigh Heads to Tugun Multi-modal corridor study. Consultation involved key stakeholder group briefings, independent community and social media sentiment market research, including 500 15-minute telephone interviews conducted by an independent research company with residents and businesses located in Burleigh Heads, Palm Beach, Elanora, Currumbin, Currumbin Waters and Tugun, and a flyer delivery to 38,000 residents.

In 2021, further consultation took place on the Burleigh Heads to Tugun section of the Stage 4 corridor, with 43 community in-person drop-in sessions conducted over 10 weeks which attracted 4181 visitors and an online engagement portal with 5507 visits. A project newsletter was distributed to 43,000 residents and businesses in July 2021. A further 1005 residents and businesses were contacted to undertake independent survey research in October 2021.

In 2022, consultation on the Tugun to Coolangatta section of the corridor took place, involving community drop-in sessions with 953 visitors, targeted advertising campaigns, newsletters, factsheets, and an online consultation portal which had 1853 visitors. The project newsletter was distributed to 47,511 residents and businesses, inviting community to provide their feedback and attend the in-person consultation sessions.

- (b) During the 2020 consultation period, 561 members of the community provided their feedback. Of this, 500 participants responded to the phone survey, 52 stakeholders provided written feedback, and nine phone enquiries to provide feedback were received. Key quantitative results from the phone survey of 500 residents and businesses outlined that a total of 68 per cent of respondents support the solutions presented in the Gold Coast Highway multi-modal corridor study (Burleigh Heads to Tugun section) to improve the liveability and connectivity for local communities between Burleigh Heads to Tugun.

A total of 1701 feedback submissions were received during the 2021 consultation period. The independent phone survey of 1005 participants found 63 per cent of those surveyed supported light rail as the transport solution for the Gold Coast Highway corridor. Of the remaining 37 per cent of participants, 15 per cent reported neutral support and 21 per cent were not in favour of the proposed solution.

During the 2022 consultation period, a total of 1653 feedback submissions were received. There were 176 online submissions, 304 hardcopy feedback form submissions, 1127 emails to the project inbox (including 1070 templated objection letters), 13 telephone calls and 33 pieces of individual correspondence.

Throughout the 2020 to 2022 rounds of community consultation, a total of 3915 pieces of feedback were provided by the community to the project through written feedback forms, online feedback forms, independent phone survey responses, and phone and email enquiries.

- (c) The Stage 4 project corridor spans from Burleigh Heads to Coolangatta, along the Gold Coast Highway. The Gold Coast Highway corridor is inclusive of Brake Street (Burleigh Heads), Terminal Drive (Bilinga), Coolangatta Road (Bilinga), Musgrave Street (Bilinga), Miles Street (Coolangatta), Lanham Street Park (Coolangatta), McLean Street (Coolangatta), Chalk Street (Coolangatta) and Warner Street (Coolangatta).