

Question on Notice

No. 227

Asked on Wednesday 27 February 2008

MR NICHOLLS ASKED THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (MR MICKEL) —

QUESTION:

With reference to the Government's promise to spend \$10.4m to 'slash urban bus fares in regional Queensland' (media release 28 August 2006) and the former Premier's statement that the Labor Government would spend \$2.6m a year in Townsville, Cairns, Mackay, Rockhampton, Capricorn Coast, Gladstone, Bundaberg, Maryborough and Hervey Bay, and Toowoomba 'to bring about fairer fares for bus passengers' and to a media release issued on 20 December 2007 announcing new standardised fares for Cairns and to his claim in his answer to the Coalition's Question on Notice No. 1525 of 2007, that the cheaper fares would be 'progressively rolled out across Queensland'—

(1) When will bus fares be reduced in Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, the Capricorn Coast, Gladstone, Bundaberg, Maryborough and Hervey Bay and Toowoomba (each area reported separately)?

(2) How much of the \$10.4m promised to reduce bus fares has been spent in 2007–08 and how much is estimated to be spent in 2008-09?

(3) How much of the \$10.4m is allocated to be spent in Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, the Capricorn Coast, Gladstone, Bundaberg, Maryborough and Hervey Bay and Toowoomba (each area reported separately)?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government is committed to investing \$10.4 million over the next four years in improved bus services. This program is being progressively rolled out across Queensland with Qconnect introduced to Cairns on 21 January 2008 and to Townsville on 10 March 2008.