

Question on Notice

No. 1790

Asked on Wednesday, 26 October 2011

MS NELSON-CARR ASKED THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS (MS PALASZCZUK)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister inform the House of initiatives taken to ensure that all Queenslanders, not just those in the South East corner, have access to a modern and practical public transport system?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Mundingburra for the question.

The Queensland Government has begun developing a 20-year transport plan for North Queensland that will set the blueprint for future transport priorities, projects and investments.

We have committed significant investment toward improvements to our public transport networks across the state, including Transit Networks in Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Bundaberg and Toowoomba. These investments will be complemented by an ongoing program of investment in disability access upgrades, and major projects.

In 2010-11, the state government provided more than \$7.4 million in funding support for *qconnect* urban bus services in Townsville, including Bushland Beach and Magnetic Island. These services provided approximately 3.1 million passenger trips across the region. Urban patronage in Townsville has increased by 15% since 2008-09.

The Bligh Government recently announced a new online journey planner for *qconnect* buses in Townsville and other regional centres from Cairns to Warwick. Regional Queenslanders can use the journey planner by logging on to www.qconnect.qld.gov.au and entering their trip details. People can access this tool wherever they are, whenever they need it, on desk top and most web-based mobile devices.

The *qconnect* journey planner is powered by Google Maps and provides integrated public transport stop, route and timetable information to make journey planning quick and easy.