

Question on Notice

No. 795

Asked on Thursday, 31 October 2013

MRS SCOTT asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (MR EMERSON) —

QUESTION:

Given that it has been more than eight months since the Minister announced a review into subsidised and regulated long-distance coast, train and air services in Queensland, placing the future of many long-distance transport services in doubt—

Will the Minister advise the House when the review will be completed so that Queenslanders can learn the fate of the services that they rely on?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Woodridge for the question.

I understand the importance of long distance passenger transport services in connecting regional and remote communities to essential services, like health and education, in major centres.

In line with the Newman Government's commitment to improving frontline services, I announced a review into long distance passenger services earlier this year. The review is warranted given changing passenger demands (such as patronage on air routes in growing communities like Roma increasing by almost 500% in six years). The review also aims to improve value for money for taxpayers who currently subsidise some rail services by up to \$2000 per passenger trip.

I have already announced the Cairns to Weipa air route will be deregulated. Further announcements will be made in time for new contracts to begin operation at the end of 2014.