

Question on Notice

No. 1040

Asked on Tuesday 4 September 2018

MR S O'CONNOR ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

With reference to Stage 2 of the Gold Coast Light Rail—

Will the Minister advise (a) why trams do not continue past the Gold Coast University Hospital station after midnight on weekends and (b) whether there are any plans to extend this late night service through to Helensvale station?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Bonney for the question.

In the 2017–18 financial year, patronage on the Gold Coast Light Rail has reached 9.49 million trips. Since light rail commenced on the Gold Coast in 2014 after being established and funded by state and federal Labor governments, public transport trips have increased by more than 42 per cent, and light rail patronage has increased by over 33 per cent when compared to the same period last year.

As part of the planning for Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 2 by the Palaszczuk Labor Government, the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) assessed the need for services between the Gold Coast University Hospital and Helensvale after midnight. The expected patronage was deemed to be so low that running tram or bus services could not be justified.

The TMR assessment included investigating patronage on route 709, as this was the service being replaced by the tram. The 709 did not operate after 11.30 pm and the average number of passenger trips per day after 10.30 pm was only four.

Tram service operating hours were slightly extended compared to the previous bus service to ensure connections with the last Gold Coast line heavy rail services at Helensvale.

As a result, TMR is not proposing to extend the span of hours operated on light rail between the Gold Coast University Hospital and Helensvale after midnight. However, TMR will continue to monitor network demand to ensure it meets the needs of local communities.