

Question on Notice

No. 1077

Asked on Tuesday 4 September 2018

MR J BLEIJIE ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

With reference to declining bus and rail patronage on the Sunshine Coast since 2012-13 and constituents' concerns around the excessive time and effort to utilise bus services to Landsborough station to travel by train to Brisbane and other destinations—

Will the Minister commit to implement a direct bus service from Kawana Shoppingworld (a hub for local residents and bus services) to Landsborough station to improve services and drive greater public transport patronage?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Kawana for the question.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is committed to providing an integrated and efficient public transport network for Queensland.

I am advised that, contrary to the premise of the Member's question, during the 2017–18 financial year, Landsborough rail station has experienced over nine per cent passenger growth when compared to 2012–13 financial year. There has also been a 3.6 per cent growth rate on the entire Sunshine Coast line for the same time period.

While bus patronage in the region remained relatively stable between the 2012–13 and 2016–17 financial years, in the 2017–18 financial year we saw growth of over three per cent compared to the same time period in 2016–17.

Overall, public transport patronage on the Sunshine Coast grew by more than 4 per cent in 2017–18 when compared to 2016–17.

The Member would be aware that this patronage improvement coincides with the implementation of the Palaszczuk Government's fairer fares package, which has saved SEQ passengers around \$117 million (to 31 August 2018).

TMR provides direct bus-to-rail connections from the larger Sunshine Coast population centres, with services to Landsborough rail station from both Caloundra (via route 605) and Maroochydore (via route 615). Both of these bus routes are timed to provide convenient connections with Brisbane rail services. Passengers travelling from other locations such as Kawana Shoppingworld, can travel to Caloundra or Mooloolaba and then connect onto routes 605 or 615.

There are no current plans to change bus service arrangements between Kawana Shoppingworld and Landsborough.