

**Question on Notice**

**No. 1132**

**Asked on Thursday 6 September 2018**

**MR T WATTS** ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

**QUESTION:**

Will the Minister advise, for bus services operating across Toowoomba including Highfields (reported separately by route number), the current rate of patronage in comparison to the patronage of services operating in 2015?

**ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for Toowoomba North for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to providing residents of regional Queensland with access to high quality public transport services.

There has been significant investment in Toowoomba to deliver a public transport system that is equitable, accessible and provides a viable alternative to the private car.

Based on the current available data, patronage (trips made) across the Toowoomba urban bus network for 2014–15 was approximately 540,000. Patronage declined by approximately eight per cent to 495,000 in 2015–16, and further declined by an additional four per cent to 476,000 in 2016–17.

The network change implemented by the Palaszczuk Government in June 2017 has seen this trend in declining patronage cease, with patronage stabilising at 476,000 for 2017–18.

As a result of the bus route alignments and numbers changing as a part of the network restructure in 2017, it is not possible to accurately compare patronage of individual routes.