

Question on Notice

No. 1708

Asked on Wednesday 14 November 2018

MS S BOLTON ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

With reference to safety policy in public transport—

Will the Minister advise on the disparity between new buses, which are required to have and use seat belts, and older existing buses which are not required to have them fitted?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Noosa for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to ensuring our transport network is safe for all users and providers of passenger transport services.

In regard to the requirement for seatbelts on buses, the government has adopted a risk-based approach that is determined by service type and operating environment rather than the age of the vehicle.

The highest risk services are long distance coaches and school buses that travel over 'environment 3' gazetted roads. These roads are defined as long steep or very steep roads, and standing passengers are not permitted on buses that travel on these roads. These services are required to be fitted with seatbelts and have other safety features such as roll-over compliance and auxiliary brakes to ensure the vehicle will retain its structural integrity in the event of an accident.

School and urban services operating over other roads are considered lower risk, and are not required to be fitted with seatbelts as, they generally operate at relatively slow speeds, and stop frequently throughout the journey for passengers to board, and alight, making seatbelts impractical. These services also experience periods of high patronage and carry standees to enable maximum passenger loadings.

While not mandated for school services travelling on roads other than environment 3 gazetted roads, bus operators are able to provide services in seat-belted buses if they choose to.

The Palaszczuk Government will continue to monitor the issue to ensure evidence-based best practice continues to underpin passenger transport safety in Queensland.