

## Question on Notice

No. 354

Asked on Thursday, 22 March 2018

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

### QUESTION:

With reference to the SEQ Regional Plan which identifies and promotes the Western Growth Corridor—

Will the Minister advise what long-term planning is being undertaken to deliver high speed passenger rail through this corridor?

### ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Lockyer for the question.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (the department) has planned for and preserved a future passenger rail corridor between Brisbane and Toowoomba.

The South East Queensland Regional Plan, *ShapingSEQ*, notes a future passenger transport investigation between Brisbane and Toowoomba using this corridor. The investigation will examine the current and future demand for commuter rail services, as well as the likely timing and staging of these services.

The Queensland Government is also committed to ensuring the Australian Government-led Inland Rail project incorporates these future passenger rail outcomes in its design.

Cross River Rail is the Queensland Government's highest priority public transport infrastructure project. The Cross River Rail project will unlock a bottleneck at the core of South East Queensland's passenger rail network, allowing more trains to run more often. Delivery of Cross River Rail can provide rail capacity benefits for the whole South East Queensland rail network, including for Ipswich and the Lockyer Valley.

The department is also working collaboratively to develop Regional Transport Plans for all regions across the state. The draft South East Queensland Regional Transport Plan will provide a blueprint for Queensland's future transport system at the local level, guiding state and local government planning priorities over the next 15 years.

The draft South East Queensland Regional Transport Plan will provide a transport planning response to support the goals identified in *ShapingSEQ*, and outline planning actions necessary to further advance rail priorities for the western area of South East Queensland.