

**Question on Notice**

**No. 446**

**Asked on Wednesday, 2 May 2018**

**MR L MILLAR ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)**

**QUESTION:**

With reference to Aurizon's confirmation that it intends to cease operation of its Queensland intermodal business by sale and closure before the end of 2018—

Will the Minister advise how the government will ensure subsidised regional freight services to communities in the electorate of Gregory are not disrupted, if the proposed sale of Aurizon to the consortium of Pacific National and Linfox does not proceed?

**ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for Gregory for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government is steadfast in supporting regional freight, and we are also concerned about the uncertainty surrounding the sale of Aurizon's intermodal freight business.

The sale of Aurizon's Queensland intermodal business is a matter for Aurizon, Pacific National/Linfox and the regulatory authorities, including the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) and the Foreign Investment Review Board.

This is why I have written to the ACCC, expressing this support and urging Aurizon and Pacific National to work with the ACCC to resolve any issues and ensure the continuation of the regional rail freight contract, which is currently in place.

The Palaszczuk Government will continue to monitor this closely, and make sure that regional communities continue to have access to freight services.

The government provides subsidies for rail and road freight services in the north west, central west and south west regions of Queensland. These regional freight contracts support commercially unviable freight services in regional Queensland through the provision of 2200 road services and 208 rail freight services per year.

Rail freight services were extended in the central west region until December 2019. This included the introduction of an additional weekly rail service on the Central West Line on 14 January 2018, in response to feedback from the community.