

Question on Notice

No. 637

Asked on Tuesday 30 April 2019

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Minister's reneging on a departmental undertaking to Remote Area Planning and Development Board that a stakeholder group would have input and provide guidance into the next tender process for the regulated air transport routes across regional and remote Queensland—

Will the Minister advise what stakeholder consultation is being undertaken to ensure the next tender process results in airfares that are affordable for remote passengers?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Gregory for the question, although I do not accept its premise.

The Palaszczuk Government recognises that regional and remote Queensland communities have different transport needs and challenges.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is currently planning for the future procurement of long distance passenger transport services across regional Queensland. To recognise the diversity of regional Queensland and identify matters that are important and specific to each area, TMR will engage with all interested stakeholders of long distance passenger services, including respective councils and communities.

Ongoing delays to the release of findings of the Federal Senate Inquiry into the operation, regulation and funding of air services in rural, regional and remote communities has resulted in a delay to the proposed consultation program.

TMR will consult within each community, gather important data and feedback, undertake analysis, identify priorities and develop preliminary options that are specific to communities. It is then planned that representative bodies, such as the Remote Area Planning and Development Board (RAPAD), would be consulted on the outcomes and assist in shaping the future of regional Queensland long distance services.

TMR acknowledges the role RAPAD plays in advocating for the needs of Central Western Queensland communities and supporting the sustainable growth and development of the region.