

Question on Notice

No. 33

Asked on 23 February 2021

MS A LEAHY ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise if the government will subsidise the Brisbane-Roma-Charleville regulated air services route beyond 31 March 2021?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Warrego for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government understands the important role which public transport plays in connecting people with jobs, education, essential services and each other.

On 25 April 2020, the Palaszczuk Government announced a \$54.5 million package to keep Queensland moving during the Covid-19 pandemic. Under this package, assistance has been provided to contracted delivery partners to maintain essential service delivery to regional and remote communities across Queensland.

As part of this package, the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) negotiated Covid-19 variations to the existing regulated aviation service contracts, which were delivered alongside the Australian Government's Regional Airline Network Support (RANS) program which was due to expire on 28 March 2021.

On 11 March 2021, the Australian Government announced an extension of RANS to 30 September 2021 but noted that there would be some changes to eligible routes. Specific details of these changes have not yet been provided to TMR.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to continuing all regulated air service routes in Queensland, which includes the Brisbane-Roma-Charleville route. Passenger numbers from Charleville to Brisbane reduced significantly during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, with passenger numbers experiencing a slow recovery. TMR will continue to monitor Charleville passenger demand and determine the appropriate service levels.

TMR will also continue working with the Commonwealth Government and relevant airlines as further details are known about the extension to the RANS program.

Airlines schedules are currently in place to allow bookings for travel beyond 28 March 2021, reflecting the Palaszczuk Government's commitment to providing ongoing services.