

Question on Notice

No. 675

Asked on 26 May 2021

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the fatal crash between a school bus and a vehicle on the Warrego Highway on 14 May 2021 and the key role played by seat belts in the school bus in minimising injury and possible further fatalities—

Will the Minister advise whether he is considering mandating seat belts for all school buses travelling through 100 kilometre per hour zones as part of their normal school routes?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Gregory for the question.

Safety is at the forefront of everything the Palaszczuk Government does, and the Palaszczuk Government is committed to ensuring buses are safe for all Queenslanders. Any loss of life on Queensland roads is tragic and I offer my condolences to the passengers who were injured in this incident and their families.

Incidents of this nature are extremely rare—public transport remains safe, with the vast majority of the millions of trips taken on the Queensland bus network each year occurring without incident.

All Queensland buses are compliant with the relevant national Vehicle Standard Australian Design Rules (ADRs) that were in force when the bus was manufactured. While the ADRs do not require passenger seat belts be fitted in all buses, bus operators can choose to install them. However, the Department of Transport and Main Roads does mandate passenger seat belts for school buses travelling on long steep and very steep roads (Environment 3 roads) and assists operators in meeting installation costs.

There are currently no plans to amend current legislation to enforce compulsory seat belts on all school buses in Queensland travelling through 100 kilometre per hour zones. However, the government will continue to monitor this matter to ensure evidence-based best practice continues to underpin bus safety in Queensland.