

Question on Notice

No. 1296

Asked on 9 November 2022

MR S MINNIKIN ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise if recent media reports of fatigue issues with pilots at the Port of Brisbane have been investigated by the department and the outcome of any investigation?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Chatsworth for the question.

The provision of pilotage services is crucial to the safety of vessel movements in Queensland waters. It should be noted that within the first ten months of operations, Poseidon Sea Pilots Pty Ltd (PSP) has safely and efficiently delivered over 4200 piloted movements despite challenging weather, wind and tidal effects from both Tropical Cyclone Seth—the tsunami originating in the South East Pacific Ocean in early January 2022—as well as flooding in the Brisbane River, Port of Brisbane and surrounds in February and again in May 2022.

All pilotage service providers in Queensland are required, under regulation, to implement a fatigue management program which must be capable of ensuring pilots are properly rested and fit to perform their duties.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads, through Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ), undertakes a regular assurance program of all pilotage service providers for compliance with legislation and other policy requirements. Specific to the arrangements for Brisbane, MSQ closely monitors all aspects of service delivery, including fatigue, through regular reports from PSP and through independent analysis of shipping movements.

MSQ meets with PSP senior management on a regular basis. These meetings have set clear expectations of what is required under the contract, including operational parameters, fatigue management requisite reporting and meeting contractual key performance indicators. Through MSQ's analysis, it has confirmed the service provider has encountered some periodic fatigue issues, and MSQ is closely engaged with PSP to ensure continuous and proactive actions are implemented.