

Question on Notice

No. 1389

Asked on 29 November 2022

MR J KRAUSE ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide the average weekday patronage for each mode of transport in the South East Queensland public transport network (reported separately by each financial year from 2015–16 to 2021–22)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Scenic Rim for the question.

The average weekday passenger trips on the South East Queensland public transport network for the financial years 2015–16 to 2021–22 is provided in the table below.

	Average weekday South East Queensland Passenger trips						
	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22
Bus	378,999	373,117	379,995	392,752	315,906	254,372	242,117
Ferry	19,754	19,185	19,601	18,799	14,817	11,174	8984
Tram	21,681	22,844	27,282	31,294	24,718	17,782	18,685
Rail	174,295	175,755	182,762	190,058	149,561	112,512	107,956

The 2019–20 financial year was impacted by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in increased work/study from home, international and domestic border closures, mode shift from mass public transport to active transport, or private motor vehicles as people sought to maintain social distancing, and population growth being impacted by closed international borders. Pre pandemic, there was a clear trend of increasing public transport patronage.

All modes continued to be impacted by COVID-19 in the 2020–21 financial year, with successive lockdowns in March 2021 and June 2021. For each day the network was in lockdown, over 200,000 trips were lost per day.

Passenger trips continued to be impacted by COVID-19 during the 2021–22 financial year, with lockdowns, border closures and increased social distancing restrictions in the first half of the year, followed by the outbreak of the Omicron variant in the community in the second half of the year. This led to high levels of sickness and extended periods of quarantine and self-isolation across the community. Passenger trips were further impacted by the severe flooding event in early 2022.

While public transport passenger trips have remained below pre-COVID levels since March 2020, trips have steadily been increasing over 2022.

Gold Coast Light Rail became the first mode of public transport across the SEQ network to exceed pre-COVID passenger journeys (week ending 13 November 2022).

Recorded paid passenger journeys of 75.9 per cent of pre-COVID levels occurred in October 2022, up from around 66.8 per cent in July 2022.