

Question on Notice

No. 1448

Asked on 30 November 2022

MR N DAMETTO ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the latest announcement regarding closing down of 'unviable' Driver Reviver rest stops across Queensland—

Will the Minister advise what the annual running costs have been for the Frances Creek driver reviver component of the rest stop south of Ingham (reported separately by financial year) for the past five years?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Hinchinbrook for the question.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has coordinated the Driver Reviver Program for over 30 years, with the valued assistance of a Queensland volunteer cohort. I can advise more than half the Driver Reviver sites in Queensland are operating from visitor information centres, local community and privately owned organisations. Only some of these sites remain TMR-owned facilities.

Driver Reviver Australia Ltd intends to continue to operate the non-TMR sites across Queensland as the owners of the Driver Reviver program – a road safety venture supported and funded by the Federal Government.

I am advised by TMR that the use of driver reviver sites across the state has dropped by up to 80 per cent in some instances. Patronage has decreased significantly as more petrol stations, cafes and convenience stores are available now, and people are often choosing to stop at those instead.

Making the decision to close TMR-owned Driver Reviver sites was a lengthy consideration of the workplace health and safety, the respective sites' declining patronage and reduced volunteer participation. Safety is the utmost priority of TMR. As a result of these workplace health and safety assessments, where a TMR-owned Driver Reviver facility had identified safety issues for travellers and volunteers operating sites, TMR commenced consultation with volunteers and stakeholders about the continuity of the Driver Reviver Program at TMR-owned facilities in their area.

It is important to note, there are over 450 rest areas on Queensland roads, maintaining a convenient roadside location for travellers to stop and take a fatigue break. In addition, the jointly funded Road Safety Program has committed \$37.9 million (Australian Government 80 per cent; State Government 20 per cent) to the Rest Area Upgrade Program (RAUP). The Palaszczuk Government has contributed \$7.58 million towards the RAUP, which provides new and/or upgrades to existing roadside amenities to encourage drivers to stop and rest.

The Road Safety Program will deliver proactive and reactive road safety treatments to reduce related road crashes and address the issue of fatigue for all Queensland motorists.

Frances Creek Driver Reviver Annual Operational costs are outlined in the table below.

Financial year	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Operational costs	\$4880	\$550*	\$5600	\$1060	\$970 (to date)

* Site closed for a substantial period due to COVID-19.