

Question on Notice
No. 346
Asked on 31 March 2022

MS S BOLTON ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND MINISTER FOR RACING (HON G GRACE)

QUESTION:

With reference to living within a school catchment being no guarantee of access to the School Transport Assistance Scheme (STAS) due to conflicting criteria—

Will the Minister commit to a review of families experiencing STAS access issues and adjusting school catchments to better work with the STAS criteria as TMR has not addressed?

ANSWER:

The School Transport Assistance Scheme (STAS) is the responsibility of the Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR). It is designed to provide transport assistance for those students who do not have a school in their local area. To receive assistance students must travel on the designated bus service for their area. The designated bus service has a school bus catchment area determined by DTMR.

Queensland state school catchment areas are determined by the Queensland Government Statistician's Office (QGSO) using equal distance principles to ensure each residence is located within the catchment area of their closest school. Catchment areas are only enforced at schools with a School Enrolment Management Plan.

Each year the QGSO reviews and updates, if necessary, state school catchments to consider any major changes to road networks that may have occurred in the preceding 12 months.

School bus catchment areas may not align with school catchment boundaries determined by the Department of Education (DoE). This is predominantly due to identification of safe pick-up/drop-off and bus turnaround locations, operator contracts, and service viability within the wider passenger transport network.

DoE and DTMR will continue to work together to address anomalies and concerns that are raised.