

Question on Notice

No. 923

Asked on 1 September 2022

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide the month and year that all Queenslanders will have access to a digital drivers licence?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Chatsworth for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government is creating a modern, innovative solution that adopts international best-practice solutions and has the privacy of Queenslanders' data front of mind. The Digital Licence app will allow Queenslanders to securely store and display/share their Driver Licence, Marine Licence and/or Photo Identification Card.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has partnered with Thales Australia Pty Ltd to deliver the Digital Licence App. Thales is a leading Aerospace, defence and security company. Thales, in turn, partnered with two local Brisbane companies: Code Heroes and Aliva. The app is being designed by Queenslanders for Queenslanders, delivering good jobs during its development and better services when it is rolled out.

The security and privacy of Queenslanders' private information is a top priority in the development of the app, and we must make sure we get this right. When you onboard with the Digital Licence, your information is encrypted during transmission, and also when it is stored on your device. The app is protected by your phone's security features, as well as a PIN number, which you use each time you open the app. This solution is an Australia-first, meeting the International Mobile Driver Licence Standard ISO 18013-5, allowing the digital driver licences to be recognised and used all over the world.

The app uses a consent-based model for sharing information—every time you share using the app, the app will tell you exactly what information you are sharing, and you will need to consent to this share. TMR has tested the app using a range of security and penetration tests, and this will continue during the development of the app, and after it has been released.

The Digital Licence will be trialed in Townsville, beginning in late 2022. The Townsville trial will allow Queenslanders to test new features and improvements to the app that have been developed based on feedback from the extremely successful Fraser Coast trial, which reported a 94 per cent satisfaction rating during testing, and other internal and external stakeholders.

We must take the time to get this Australia-first solution right. Ensuring the privacy of Queenslanders is the top priority in the development of the Digital Drivers Licence. It is currently anticipated that the Digital Licence app will be made available to all Queenslanders in 2023, and will be optional and opt-in. The latest information about the Digital Licence can be found online at www.qld.gov.au/digitallicence.