

Question on Notice

No. 1232

Asked on 12 October 2023

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister (a) advise the number of seats in a six car NGR train and the number of seats in a six car Queensland Train Manufacturing Program (QTMP) train and (b) if the Minister is unable to advise the number of seats in a QTMP train, will the Minister commit to having no less seats than an existing NGR train?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Chatsworth and former Assistant Minister for Public Transport for the question.

Applying the lessons learned from the NGR procurement debacle, the Department of Transport and Main Roads is leading a comprehensive co-design process with disability and accessibility representatives and the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program (QTMP) contractors to inform the final design of QTMP trains. This will ensure trains meet legislative requirements and are accessible for all passengers to avoid another embarrassing outcome in relation to passengers with a disability being ignored and trains not being disability compliant.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to making QTMP trains the most accessible trains in Australia, with leading technology including train boarding bridges and electronic levelling control to address the horizontal and vertical gaps between platforms and trains. This will allow people using mobility devices and wheelchairs the option to board independently at any door without assistance and use one of the 20 wheelchair allocated spaces located throughout the train.

These efforts to make QTMP trains more accessible for people with physical and or visual impairments complement the Palaszczuk Government's substantial investment in a more accessible rail network, including Queensland Rail's Station Accessibility Upgrade Program, new underground Cross River Rail stations, accessibility station upgrades between Dutton Park and Salisbury, new accessible stations as part of the Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail project, and three new accessible Gold Coast stations. While the improvements will also benefit parents with prams, senior citizens and people with luggage, the Palaszczuk Government recognises that almost one in five Queenslanders has a disability.

The Palaszczuk Government has already delivered more than two-thirds of the accessibility improvements to the NGR fleet after they were found to be not compliant with federal disability standards. NGR trains that have been made more accessible now include 420 passenger seats per train after major rectification by rail workers in Maryborough. 53 trains have been fixed with 22 trains left to be completed.

The design for interior fit out of QTMP trains is yet to be finalised and, therefore, I am unable to advise of the total number of seats per train set.

The total passenger capacity will be comparable to the exiting NGR's, however, final configurations are not yet available.

Given more than a million Queenslanders have a disability, I commit to the Member that the QTMP will consult people with disabilities and their peak organisations. The Palaszczuk Government will treat people who are living with a disability with respect unlike the original NGR units ordered by the Newman Government when the Member was the Assistant Minister for Public Transport.