

Question on Notice
No. 351
Asked on 30 March 2023

Mr J Bleijie asked Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games (Hon. A Palaszczuk)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the 2005 Labor Government's commitment to build a high speed rail link from Beerwah to Caloundra by 2015 and to Maroochydore by 2020—

Will the Premier advise why the Premier's government has not progressed the construction of this vitally important public transport project over the last eight years?

ANSWER:

I refer the Member to my response to his question regarding Sunshine Coast rail (Queensland on Notice No. 137-2023) which was tabled on 13 April 2023.

As I advised the Member, planning is underway for the proposed passenger rail corridor between Beerwah and Maroochydore to increase public transport opportunities for the growing Sunshine Coast community. A \$6 million planning study on a proposed Direct Sunshine Coast Rail line has been jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland governments. This planning is critical to identifying the full scope, cost and timing for any future project.

Additionally, I advised that the Direct Sunshine Coast Rail line planning is critically enabled by the Beerburrum to Nambour Rail Upgrade (stage 1). The \$550.8 million project is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland governments. The project will increase track capacity, providing improved services for Queenslanders and support the growing Sunshine Coast region. It is relevant to note that this project would be further advanced if the previous LNP government had not cut more than \$1.65 billion in transport funding and progressed planning on this project.