

Question on Notice

No. 688

Asked on 25 May 2023

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

QUESTION:

With reference to advice on the Queensland Rail Travel website that tilt train bookings are not available past 16 July 2023 because 'Queensland Rail is reviewing the required maintenance program for the Tilt Train services'—

Will the Minister advise of any maintenance issues of the tilt train that may prevent continued running to the existing timetable?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Chatsworth for the question.

Queensland Rail operates two electric and three diesel Tilt Trains.

The Electric Tilt Trains are now due for regulated maintenance works to ensure their ongoing safety and reliability. The trains entered service in 1998 and underwent a similar mid-life overhaul in 2015.

Queensland Rail's North Coast line train timetable which incorporates the Tilt Train, Spirit of Queensland and Spirit of the Outback services will temporarily change from 17 July 2023 to accommodate for these essential maintenance works.

These essential works require the Electric Tilt Trains to come offline for between six and seven months per vehicle (up to 14 months total) to allow for intensive maintenance to the traction and braking systems, carriage couplings and other mechanical improvements.

While one train is undergoing maintenance, Queensland Rail will continue to operate Rockhampton Tilt Trains, Spirit of Queensland and Spirit of the Outback Services, and has amended timetables to facilitate return day trips to Brisbane four out of five week-days between Bundaberg and Brisbane.

Queensland Rail economy seats on the Spirit of Queensland (Diesel services) are usually sold at a higher price point than electric tilt trains because they provide a premium service to customers. With electric services on a reduced timetable, Queensland Rail is price matching economy seats between Rockhampton and Brisbane across all services at the lowest rate.

The temporary timetable is live on Queensland Rail's Travel website with customers able to book their journey onboard services beyond 16 July 2023. The full Electric Tilt Train timetable will return by end of September 2024.

Safety is Queensland Rail's number one priority, and these works are vital to delivering safe and reliable trains for customers to travel on.