

Question on Notice

No. 920

Asked on 22 August 2023

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise what actions have been undertaken to ensure that access to the central Queensland rail corridor remains economically feasible for non-coal users, especially agriculture and tourism?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Gregory for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government maintains its commitment to supporting the movement of freight on rail.

Aurizon Network operates the rail corridor through a 99-year lease arrangement with the State of Queensland. Access to the rail network is managed by Aurizon Network under a detailed process approved by the Queensland Competition Authority.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) recognises that this is a commercial matter between Aurizon Network and its customers. However, TMR is working with Aurizon Network on transitional arrangements for the system, including opportunities to support usage of the Blackwater rail system for non-coal customers.

Given rail transport is a critical component of the freight system across Queensland, TMR is continuing to work with all parties to ensure the continuation of freight on this corridor.