

Question on Notice

No. 233

Asked on 5 March 2026

MR S KNUTH ASKED **MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON B MICKELBERG)**—

QUESTION:

With reference to concerns raised by community organisations about the lack of public transport options for vulnerable residents to access medical appointments and essential services in Babinda, Dimbulah and Mount Garnet, and noting a previous community transport tender for the Cassowary Coast region failed to deliver a viable service—

Will the Minister advise (a) what action the Minister is taking to improve transport access for these communities and (b) if the Minister will review the Cassowary Coast tender process to increase funding to ensure a sustainable service can be established?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

- (a) In line with the election commitment made by the Crisafulli Government in 2024, our government is delivering improved transport access for communities across the Cassowary Coast and Tablelands regions. From 2026–27, the Crisafulli Government has allocated \$675,000 per annum to support a three-year public passenger service in the areas of Dimbulah, Mareeba and Ravenshoe. The service will be locally managed to ensure it reflects the needs of the communities it is designed to support.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads has already undertaken extensive market sounding with key organisations and local governments across Mareeba, Dimbulah, Atherton, Ravenshoe, Innisfail and Babinda. This engagement has demonstrated strong interest in delivering and supporting improved public passenger service options.

- (b) My department has commenced fleet procurement, and a funding agreement or service contract will be finalised with local organisations. The service is scheduled to commence in mid-late 2026.