



Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PET 24092

Your ref: 10.4 Petitions

24 JAN 2018

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to the interim response to petitions 2820-17 and 2849-17, requesting a six-month trial of a bus service operating directly between Noosa and the Sunshine Coast University Hospital (SCUH), by the former Minister for Transport, the Honourable Jackie Trad MP, which was tabled on 23 November 2017.

As you would know, I have been appointed as Minister for Transport and Main Roads and now provide a final response to these petitions.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to providing a reliable and integrated public transport network for the Sunshine Coast, and I appreciate the former Member for Noosa's feedback and suggestion on behalf of Noosa residents who rely on public transport services when travelling to the SCUH.

In January 2017, my department implemented a number of improvements to bus services across the Sunshine Coast in the lead up to the public opening of the SCUH. The changes included a new direct route to the hospital from Maroochydore, as well as more services on existing routes, including across weekend periods. These changes allow people from across the Sunshine Coast region, to access the new hospital by connecting to direct services at major interchanges including Caloundra, Kawana and Maroochydore.

In planning these changes, my department assessed the potential demand for a direct service between Noosa and the new hospital at Birtinya. As part of this, my department reviewed existing demand from Noosa to nearby Nambour General Hospital and considered community feedback received from consultation sessions held across the region in 2016. On average, fewer than seven passengers per day travel on the direct service offered between Noosa and Nambour General Hospital. Additionally, my department only received very limited feedback from the community for direct services to the SCUH. Based on these findings, it was determined that there was insufficient demand to justify the level of investment required to implement a direct service between Noosa and SCUH.

I am advised that a direct route, as proposed, would be required to travel a lengthy distance of almost 50 kilometres. With the availability of the same trip on existing services via interchange, I can confirm that the provision of a direct route between Noosa and the new SCUH is not being considered at this time.

Please be assured that my department will continue to monitor demand for travel to and from the hospital and will consider further improvements to services where this is warranted.

In accordance with s 59 A of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* and Standing Order 31, I request that this final response be tabled during the period that the Legislative Assembly is dissolved.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Bailey', with a long, sweeping tail extending to the right.

MARK BAILEY MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads