

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 1278**

**Asked on Tuesday 3 September 2019**

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

### **QUESTION:**

With reference to passengers using the QR City Network—

Will the Minister advise (a) the amount of passenger fare revenue received over the past five financial years broken down as follows (i) peak and off-peak travel and (ii) fare category (e.g. adult, school student, child, pensioner, etc) and (b) the number of passengers/trips in each category?

### **ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for Chatsworth for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government has taken strong action to make public transport as affordable and accessible for South East Queensland (SEQ) commuters. Over the past five years, patronage has grown over 9.1 per cent and revenue has decreased two per cent. The decrease in revenue is mainly due to the Fairer Fares for the SEQ package (Fairer Fares) implemented in December 2016.

Fairer Fares provided much needed fare relief across SEQ, and has introduced new concessions for job seekers, asylum seekers and veterans. Up to 112,000 people now benefit each week from the new 'eight and 50' policy introduced by the Palaszczuk Government.

Only 80,000 people accessed the previous 'nine and free' arrangement each week in the 12 months prior to Fairer Fares being implemented. Those extra 32,000 people per week are enough to fill 711 urban buses. These initiatives have delivered more than \$191 million in savings, as at August 2019, for Queensland public transport users across the entire SEQ network.

The Palaszczuk Government is also delivering a \$371 million ticketing system, which will revolutionise public transport statewide, from Coolangatta to Cairns. The new system will allow commuters to pay for public transport via contactless credit or debit cards, devices such as smart phones and smart watches; as well as the current cash and *go* card payment options. The new system will include bank-grade security, and will be rolled out across all 18 regional markets, in addition to SEQ.

It took a Labor Government to modernise and integrate ticketing across SEQ and the Palaszczuk Labor Government is now delivering the infrastructure, Fairer Fares, and the world-class ticketing system we need continue to make public transport more attractive into the future.

The Palaszczuk Government is also delivering a number of rail projects to address existing capacity constraints, meet future service demand and increase network capacity for passengers. Key projects include the \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail Project, with a 10.2-kilometre rail line from Dutton Park to Bowen Hills, including 5.9 kilometres of tunnel under the Brisbane River and CBD and five new high-capacity stations.

Recognising just how transformative previous stages of the Gold Coast Light Rail (GCLR) have been, the Palaszczuk Government is ready to progress the extension of light rail south from Broadbeach to Burleigh Heads should a fair funding commitment from the Australian Government be received. It was the Palaszczuk Government that invested in the GCLR Stage 2 Project. GCLR has been in operation for five years to date with more than 42.1 million passenger trips being taken. The G:link has driven patronage growth of 50 per cent across the entire Gold Coast public transport network with more than 10.74 million passenger trips taken in 2018–19. In addition, G:link operations provides more than 200 full-time local jobs with roles including light rail vehicle operator, controller, technicians and customer service officers.

Under the Palaszczuk Government, the \$163 million Coomera to Helensvale rail duplication improved train service capacity and reliability on the Gold Coast Line ahead of the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. The project involved the duplication of an 8.2-kilometre section of track between Coomera and Helensvale and was delivered on time and under budget. The project was commissioned over the long weekend, 30 September to 2 October 2017.

- (a) Approximately \$788 million, excluding GST, was collected on Queensland Rail City Network services between the 2014–15 and 2018–19 financial years.
- (b) Total passenger trips over this period was 260.27 million.

Revenue split by peak, off-peak and passenger category past five years:

Fare revenue Ex GST	Peak	Off-peak	Total
Adult	\$ 432,410,239	\$ 213,757,755	\$ 646,167,994
Seekers	\$ 465,873	\$ 646,526	\$ 1,112,399
Child	\$ 2,775,714	\$ 10,553,452	\$ 13,329,165
Concession single	\$ 4,222,848	\$ 11,433,287	\$ 15,656,135
Gold Repat	\$ 195,476	\$ 157,019	\$ 352,495
Pensioner	\$ 7,627,035	\$ 12,825,890	\$ 20,452,925
School	\$ 7,888,112	\$ 14,109,478	\$ 21,997,590
Senior	\$ 5,961,990	\$ 13,524,796	\$ 19,486,787
Tertiary Student	\$ 24,673,074	\$ 25,042,930	\$ 49,716,004
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 486,220,360</b>	<b>\$ 302,051,134</b>	<b>\$ 788,271,495</b>

\* Please note there may be slight variances in total amounts due to rounding.

Patronage split by peak and off-peak and passenger category over past five years:

Passenger Trips	Peak	Off-peak	Total
Adult	113,380,660	64,775,951	178,156,610
Seekers	305,974	522,179	828,154
Child	3,349,566	4,773,041	8,122,607
Concession single	1,285,334	3,484,974	4,770,308
Gold Repat	107,747	73,023	180,770
Pensioner	4,608,458	8,608,713	13,217,171
School	6,856,820	8,046,813	14,903,633
Senior	2,688,748	6,587,315	9,276,063
Tertiary Student	12,852,983	17,965,135	30,818,118
<b>Total</b>	<b>145,436,290</b>	<b>114,837,145</b>	<b>260,273,435</b>

\* Please note there may be slight variances in total amounts due to rounding.